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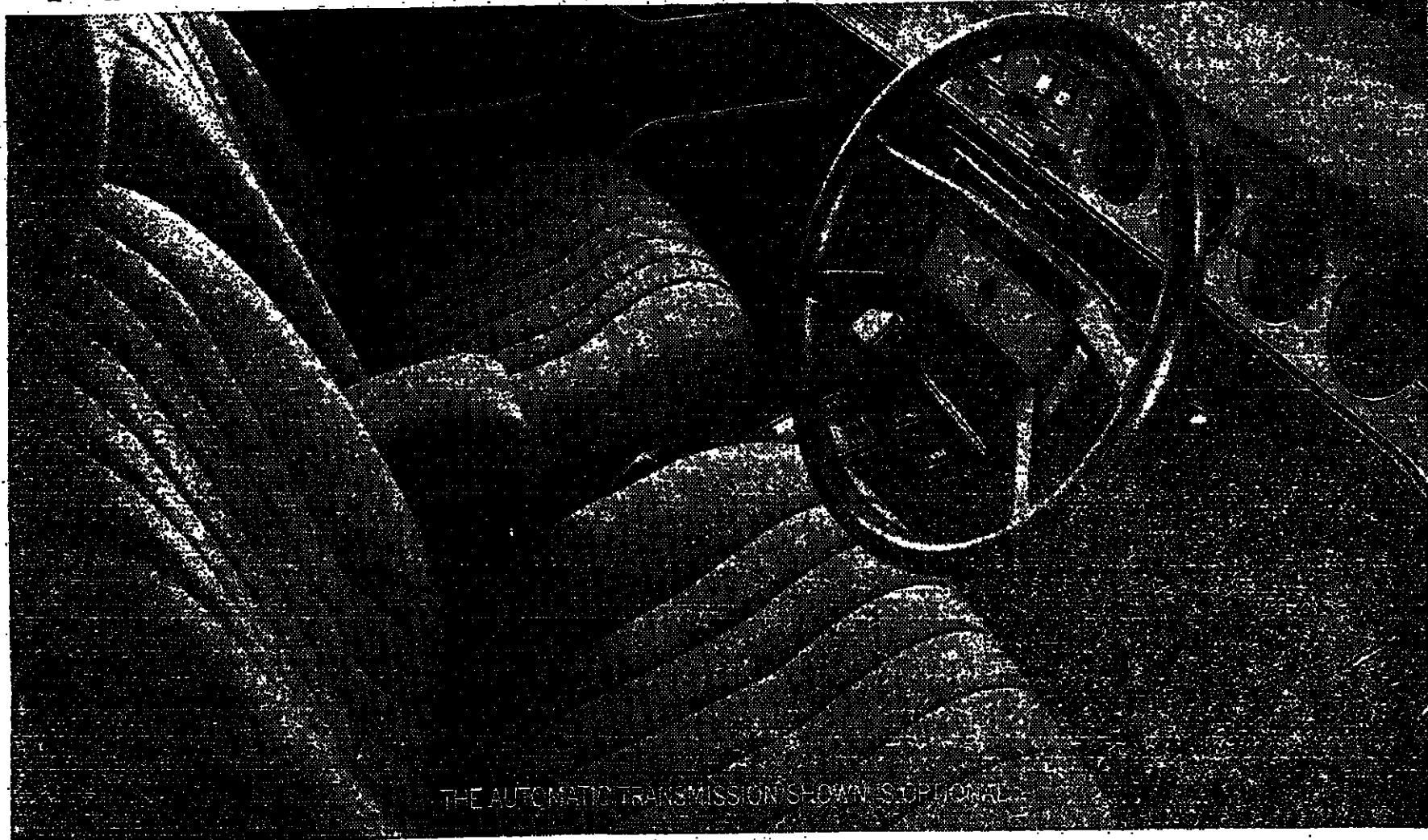
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RENAULT 30TS



THE AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SHOWN IS OPTIONAL.

HOME NEWS

Radical plan to make education service accountable to society

By Tim Devlin

A radical plan to expand the role of the Schools Council and to make the education service much more accountable to society has been put forward by Sir Alex Smith, chairman of the council, which was set up in 1964 to advise the government on the curriculum and examinations.

Sir Alex suggests that the council's governing body of 85 members should be replaced with a dual structure. It should have a convocation of about 50 or 60 members on which a third of the places should be taken by teachers, a third by local authority representatives, and a third by interested parents, church representatives, industrialists and others.

The professional work of the council now covered by its programme committee would be carried out by about 30 people on a professional board of teachers, school inspectors, local advisers, and other professional educationalists such as members of the examining boards. But the teachers would have a working majority.

Sir Alex has been aware since taking over the chairmanship of the council last year that its role should be expanded

from a service mainly producing teaching aids and programmes for teachers to one providing a forum where schools and the community can meet.

The council was criticized last year in a secret memorandum prepared by the Department of Education and Science for the Prime Minister for being dominated by teachers.

A draft of Sir Alex's plan was discussed by a council committee reviewing its constitution. Sir Alex said last night:

"It is a set of ideas which we are throwing out. We have set up a weekend conference later this month in London to look at it."

Details of the plan, published in today's issue of *The Times Educational Supplement*, say the convocation would be a meeting ground between teachers and representatives of industry, commerce, local and central government, parents and others.

It would keep watch on and comment upon aspects of the relationship between schools and the community. It could express concern to the professional board about standards of numeracy among school-leavers.

Sir Alex has been aware since taking over the chairmanship of the council last year that its role should be expanded

Teachers' leader defends secrecy of school reports

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr John Gray, president of the National Union of Teachers, defended the keeping of secret reports on schoolchildren. He told the union's Salisbury association yesterday: "Confidentiality is not sinister but is designed to protect the very pupils on whom the records are made."

Strong pressure has grown during the past two years for local education authorities to allow parents to look at the files kept by schools on their children. That demand has been supported by the Advisory

Centre for Education, Cambridge.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is expected to mention the confidentiality of school files in her forthcoming Green Paper.

Mr Gray said: "With regard to the aspects of the Green Paper that are to deal with the keeping of records and the reporting to parents, there is little difference between the Secretary of State and the teachers except that Mrs Williams seems to be inadequately advised on the current position of reporting in schools."

He said last night: "I am looking forward very much indeed to working closely with the journalists of the BBC. Before I do anything else or say anything else I want to talk to them, both in London and around the country."



Companion volumes: Two of the Mitford sisters in London yesterday celebrating new works of autobiography: Jessica (left), whose *A Fine Old Conflict* is published on Monday, at home with her husband Mr Robert Treubhaft; and Diana Lady Mosley, talking with the Duke of Wellington at a Foyles luncheon to mark the publication of *A Life of Contrasts*.

BBC names its news director

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Bryan Cowgill, controller of BBC 1 since 1974, has been appointed director of news and current affairs from October 1. He will have a seat on the board of management.

The appointment, which had been widely predicted, is a sign of the BBC's determination to strengthen those areas of its coverage after criticisms in the Annan report.

Before joining the BBC in 1955, Mr Cowgill edited a local newspaper at Clitheroe, Lancashire, having been a reporter and feature writer with the *Lancashire Evening Post* and *Preston Guardian* group. He is 49.

He said last night: "I am looking forward very much indeed to working closely with the journalists of the BBC. Before I do anything else or say anything else I want to talk to them, both in London and around the country."

Scottish Tories berate 'softies'

From Ronald Faux and Michael Hatfield Perth

The upsurge in violent crime made more police and stiffer penalties necessary, Mr Edward Taylor, spokesman on Scottish affairs, told the conference of the Scottish Conservative Party at Perth yesterday.

"The average voter, he said, was fed up with politicians who made erudite pronouncements on such issues as multilateral tariff reform or international liquidity. On the serious issue of crime there was no excuse for wavering and waffling when cases of violence had trebled between 1955 and 1975 and the murder rate was increasing at a frightening rate."

There were about a hundred violent deaths in Scotland last year, he added. Fifty-eight were treated as murder. The violent deaths included 38 stabbings, 18 punchings and kickings, 15 burglaries, 10 stranglings, and some shootings.

The first few months of this year had shown further increases, with the frightening emergence of apparently motiveless and brutal killings,

particularly in the West of Scotland.

"It is my clear view that one of the main causes is that legislative changes in the mid-1960s gave the impression and in reality brought about a softening of the law and the erosion of deterrents," Mr Taylor said.

"The first essential now was a fully manned police force of high morale. There must be more and not less spending on security, both defence and police."

It was disturbing that at a time of rising crime, resignations from the police were increasing and men with long service were going to take jobs as taxi-drivers.

"I favour the introduction of capital punishment for murder," he added. "I believe that we would save innocent lives. There is ample evidence that the present life sentence for murder is not proving an effective deterrent."

He believed that judges should be obliged, save in exceptional circumstances, to specify a minimum sentence when imposing a life sentence.

He recommended that the

destruction of public and private property should be covered by a new crime of vandalism. He had asked the party's advisory committee on crime to look into the best machinery for ensuring that young criminals, or their parents, particularly in cases of vandalism, should pay for the damage done.

Mr William Walker, prospective candidate for Perth and East Perthshire, said that for far too long the "reformers and softies" had been allowed to influence the way teenage gangs were handled. The soft approach had failed.

He suggested the introduction of 12 months' compulsory national service for all young people over 16 and under 25 who had been more than three months away from full-time education or gainful employment.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP for Kilmarnock and West Perthshire, thought the Government should introduce a criminal profits expropriation Bill.

The conference overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for stronger action on law and order.

Criticism 'affects' Civil Service

By a Staff Reporter

Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, said yesterday that "if informed criticism was affecting the morale of the Civil Service to the point where it might affect the standard of work performed for ministers and the general public."

He told the annual conference of the Civil Service Union in Blackpool: "We are paid from the public purse to serve ministers and the public. It is right that all our activities should be scrutinised."

But some critics had maintained that civil servants did not pay taxes. There had been a persistent refusal to accept the facts on pay and pensions.

"Rational, discussion and sensible debate is one thing. The kind of ill-informed comments we are seeing at present about civil servants are quite another," Sir Douglas added.

Three more Yard men convicted of bribery

By Clive Borrell

For the third successive night a jury of seven men and five women were taken to an hotel last night to consider their verdicts in a trial at the Central Criminal Court in which three former members of Scotland Yard's "Obscene Publications" squad are accused of accepting bribes.

Mr Justice Mansfield said he would call them back into court this morning to consider the 10 charges still on the indictment.

So far the jury has found former senior members of the squad, Wallace Virgo, aged 39, who was a constable, and Alfred William Moody, aged 37, who was a detective, chief superintendent, guilty of accepting bribes. Yesterday they found guilty verdicts against three other officers: who served under Mr Virgo and Mr Moody.

Yesterday Leslie Alton, aged 47, a retired detective inspector of Harefield Road, Chesham, Surrey, was found guilty of accepting £2,800 in bribes. He was acquitted on three charges in which it was alleged he accepted £3,500.

Rodney Tilley, aged 45, a former detective sergeant, and now licensee of the Rye and Square public house at Edeke, Borough, Buckinghamshire, was found not guilty on one charge of corruption, but guilty on a charge of accepting bribes.

Bernard Peter Brown, aged 43, a former detective constable with the squad, and now licensee of the Rye and Square public house at Edeke, Borough, Buckinghamshire, was found guilty on four charges of accepting bribes, totalling £820.

The sixth defendant, David Gareth Lee Hamer, aged 34, a detective sergeant still in the force but suspended, awaits verdicts on charges relating to the alleged acceptance of £850 in bribes. All except Mr Tilley await a verdict on the main conspiracy charge.

Conservatives prepare to seize chance to implement education ideas

From Diana Geddes Ely

A new mood of optimism, confidence, and even a certain pugnacity was evident in speeches from Conservative spokesmen and supporters at the second of the party's regional conferences on education at Ely yesterday.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, opposition spokesman on education and the arts, told parents, teachers, headmasters and local authority representatives that now the Tories had control of the vast majority of local education authorities they have a real opportunity to put their ideas into practice. They did not have to wait for a change of government.

Mrs Margaret Shaw of Cambridge County Council, said the Tories now had a chance to show the country what they meant by good education and how it could be achieved.

Central to the party's thinking on education was the need for variety and flexibility in our educational system, Mr St John-Stevens said. Both those things however were in danger of "being trodden under the jackboot of central government."

He said that the needs and skills of each individual child

must be catered for, and that meant "different kinds of school and a continuing process of assessment which will sometimes lead to selection for schools and sometimes to selection inside schools."

Mr St John-Stevens called for an open-minded attitude towards comprehensive schools. They should not be condemned, but neither should they be elevated to a position of an idol.

The Tory Party were pledged to restore to local education authorities, the freedom to organize their own school systems which had been taken away from them by the Education Act.

He said he was against the imposition of a core curriculum by central government, since local needs and tastes varied. But he thought every effort should be made to avoid over-specialization at an early age so that immature art students and illiterate science students became a thing of the past. The task of the schools did not end with the training of the mind, however, they must also equip each child to take his place in society. The good careers guidance, closer contact between industry and schools, and perhaps most important of all the laying of a solid moral foundation.

We must stop the decline in religious education, he said. But that did not mean a return to the old rigid form of instruction, but "the awakening of young people to the spiritual dimension of life and to the possibility of making religious choice and commitment."

There was much talk from both parents and teachers about falling standards in schools. Perhaps inadvertently, Mr L. Bruce-Lockhart, headmaster of Gresham public school, indicated that all was not well even in the best of the independent sector, when he told of his recent experience with a pupil from a "very well-known public school in the south" whom he was interviewing for an English-speaking Union scholarship to the United States.

The pupil had four A grade A levels at the age of 16, but his standard of spoken English was deplorable, Mr Bruce-Lockhart said. He had counted twenty "sort-ofs" in one minute in the boy's reply to why he wanted to go to America.

The future of the sixth form, sixth form colleges, and tertiary colleges was the main subject of the afternoon's debate. The general consensus seemed to be that there should be a choice of forms of educational institutions for pupils aged 16 and over.

Former 'Miss Wales' found guilty

Sian Adey-Jones, a former Miss Wales, was found guilty by a jury at Mold Crown Court, Clwyd, yesterday, of kidnapping a policewoman. She was fined £100 and ordered to pay £250 costs and £25 compensation to Woman Police Constable Patricia Evans. The jury, on the direction of Judge David, QC, acquitted her of assaulting Police Constable Colin Avery.

Miss Adey-Jones, aged 19, of the Promenade, Rhos-on-Sea, had denied both charges. About 50 people were in the public gallery as the judge warned her that she had 28 days to pay, or go to jail for 28 days. He said the £250 was roughly half the Crown's costs.

Miss Adey-Jones had earlier alleged that PC Avery slapped her after she and her friend had been stopped in Colwyn Bay last November. Mr Alex Baylis, for the defence, said: "The Crown understands that the complainant does not wish to pursue the complaint in a criminal trial against PC Avery."

"The Crown are somewhat concerned that even the truth accurate publicity given to this matter may prejudice a fair trial at a future date. The view of the Crown is that it would be proper to exercise discretion in continuation and to offer no evidence against him."

Mr Martin Thomas, for the prosecution, had told the jury the case could be described as a storm in a teacup. There was much conflict between the stories of police officers and Miss Adey-Jones. "The difference is so great that someone is lying in their teeth," he added. "It is not just plain people who are capable of lying. Beautiful people like as well, and lie beautifully."

City group may make bid for 'Evening Standard'

By Sheila Black

A City consortium may be another bidder for the *Evening Standard* when, or with other newspapers in the Beaverbrook group, Mr Charles Wintour, managing director of the *Daily Express* division of Beaverbrook, was involved in talks with City people during the early months of this year when secret talks were being held between Beaverbrook and Associated Newspapers under the auspices of Lord Goodman. Efforts to raise a City consortium predate Sir James Goldsmith's scheme.

Wish Mr Rowland, and Mr Robert Maxwell with professing interest, and considering the financial attraction to Beaverbrook of the offer for the *Standard* with a possible cash injection for other Beaverbrook interests, there is growing concern in parliamentary circles that no deal should be concluded hastily and that every possible permutation must be explored.

Although there is no reason for referring any of the present proposals to the Monopolies Commission, there may be some case for suspending final agreement until further investigation can be made to ensure that the outcome would best serve the long-term health of both Beaverbrook and Associated publications. While Associated is financially strong from diversified interests, its *Evening News* would suffer from a stronger *Standard*.

The Cabinet is concerned with the possibility of foreign ownership of British newspapers. If the Goldsmith deal goes through, while it is not a foregone conclusion that control of Beaverbrook Newspapers would end up under the ownership of Sir James's French

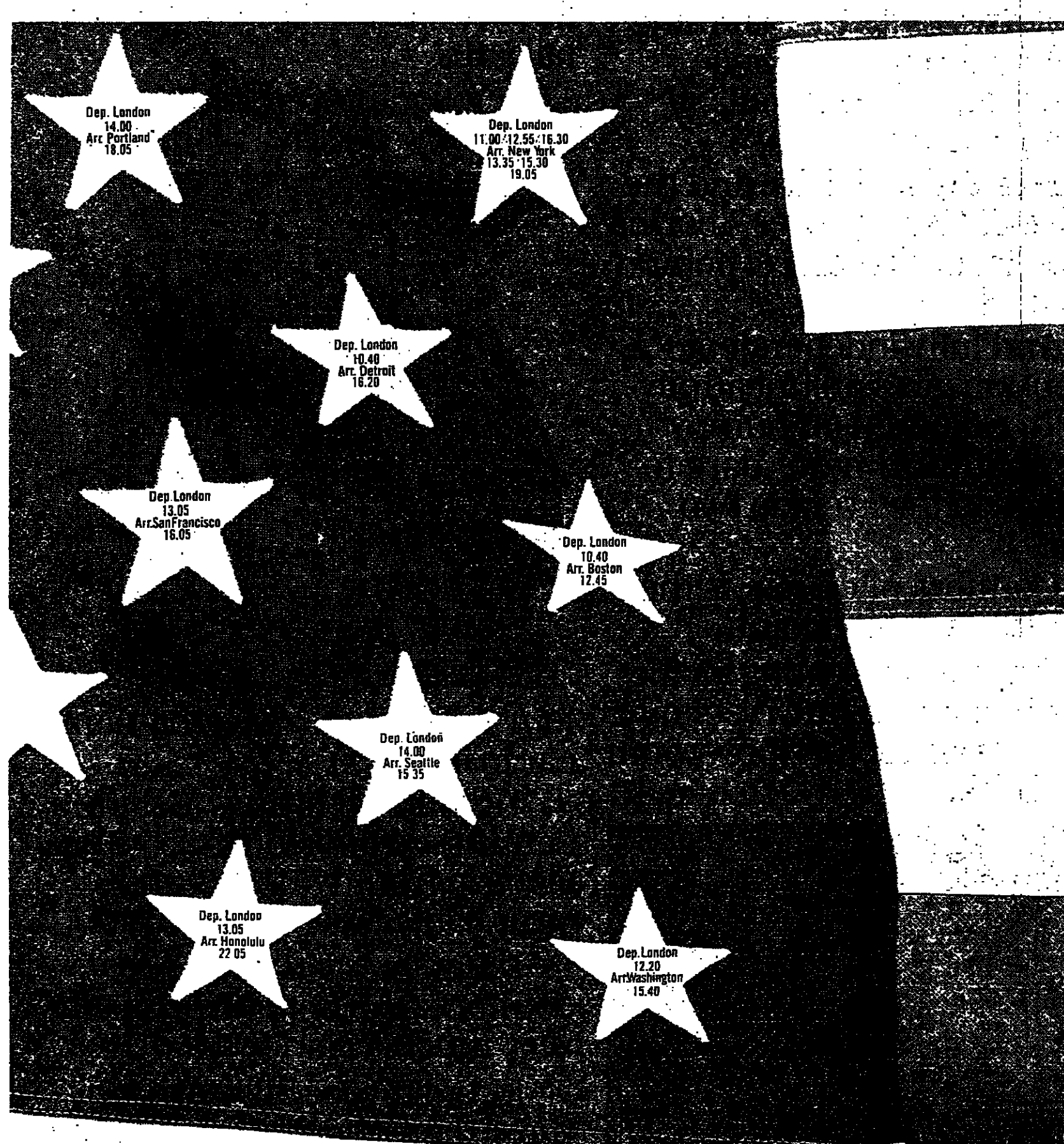
company, Generale Occidentale, it is very much on the cards since GO already owns a majority stake in the Cavenham Foods and is expected shortly to take over the minority balance.

There is no law to prevent foreign ownership of newspapers and it would probably take longer to enact one than for the Beaverbrook-Cavenham deal to be concluded, but the possibility is being considered.

Mr Vere Harmsworth, Associated Newspapers' chairman, said this week that he had asked down a three-year-old plan for two London evening newspapers within his own group and dusted it off. One paper, which would carry the same classified advertising as its stablemate, would be an intellectual, business and cultural up-market paper, pitched above where the *Standard* now aims; and with a sale of not more than 100,000 copies but with a possibly high subscription list and a high degree of reader loyalty. The other paper would be somewhere above the *Evening News* market but not too far above.

A bid by Associated for the entire Beaverbrook group, despite monopoly considerations and technical financial difficulties involved with the Beaverbrook Foundation and Aiken family holdings of Beaverbrook voting stock, cannot be ruled out.

Union leaders are aware that the original Associated bid for the *Evening Standard* and its merger with the *News* might lead to fewer redundancies than a dominating scheme for the whole of Beaverbrook Newspapers, and would provide postmaster of a heavy deal in order to find time for further discussions of all possible choices.



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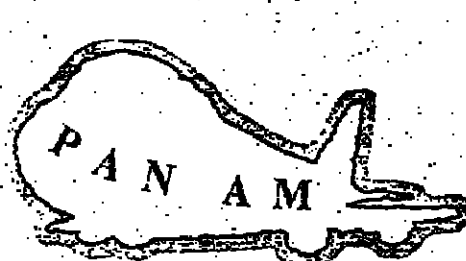
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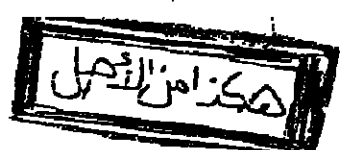
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A once and for all credit of £7 will be given on the first telephone bill that customers receive after October 1st. It will apply to customers on the phone at that date who were also connected on May 4th, when the announcement was made. And the rebate will be paid for each exchange line in service. For example, a householder with one line will receive a £7 credit. A business customer with ten lines will get £70.

And in addition Cheap Rate local calls will be even cheaper—

The time allowed for 3p on a Cheap Rate local call will increase from 8 minutes to 12 minutes on August 1st.

The Post Office Users National Council concurs with these proposals.

These benefits are in addition to the stability in our prices—unchanged since October 1975—which we hope to maintain until at least 31 March 1978.

Post Office Telecommunications

HOME NEWS

Manpower commission seeks to take over government agencies

By Mark Jackson, of *The Times Educational Supplement*

The Department of Employment may be about to lose nearly all its remaining responsibility for manpower and administration throughout the country.

Discussions are taking place between the department and the Manpower Services Commission over a transfer of its regional functions to the commission. The latter's proposals would leave the department with little to do outside Whitehall except to pay out benefits on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr. Golding, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Employment, confirms the existence of the discussions in an interview with *The Times Educational Supplement* today. He says the commission also wants to take over control of the local authority careers service, but has been firmly rebuffed by ministers.

Senior staff of the commission say they expect to put firm proposals to the Government by the autumn for the commission to integrate under its own direction the manpower services now run by the department and by the Training Services Agency and the Employment Services Agency.

Although they are responsible to the commission, which reports in turn to the Secretary of State for Employment, the two agencies operate separately and autonomously.

The commission, set up

three years ago as a policy body, has since started to run its own programmes for the unemployed in parallel with the agencies.

The commission has become increasingly influential because of support from the TUC and Confederation of British Industry, both being actively represented among the commissioners, and it can argue that something has to be done to secure a unified control over the various programmes. It proposes that the new administration should be run through regional manpower directors.

If the department continues to hold out, the careers service would be the only arm of the manpower services remaining outside the commission's control. The service, which is responsible for providing employment help to school-leavers and other young people, and for developing contacts between schools and industry, is run by local education authorities but answers to the Department for Employment.

In his *TES* interview Mr. Golding says that the Government is concerned to maintain the morale of careers officers who, he is convinced, do not want to be part of what he calls "the MSC empire".

He says: "We have specifically excluded the careers service from the present discussions, and made it plain that there is no possibility that control will be placed outside central government."

Worker decapitated by propeller

Paris, May 12.—A postal worker was decapitated by the propeller of a Post Office aircraft at Orly airport today, police said.

Court action against Canada over seals

Montreal, May 12.—Franz Weber, a Swiss environmentalist, said he has taken legal action against the Canadian authorities for allegedly permitting 20,000 seal pups to be skinned alive.

Use of law to enforce closed shop opposed

By Our Political Staff

The use of law to impose both the closed shop and the Bullock report's recommendations for worker-directors "is the way to enslave, not liberate, the individual in industry", Lord Carr of Hadley, a former Secretary of State for Employment, said at the Cutlers' feast in Sheffield yesterday.

He added that he wanted to see strong trade unions, because the right of individuals to combine and to act together collectively was just as much a vital freedom as the right of individuals not to be dragged into a closed shop.

The individual ought to be protected against being literally forced to choose between losing his job or joining a union against his will and conscience. Labour's recent legislation had removed proper protection for that fundamental human right, "a tyrannical and wicked state of affairs".

The freedom to combine and the freedom not to combine were essential to the status of the individual in industry. That was why the mutual rights and duties associated with the exercise of the two potentially conflicting freedoms "should be carefully defined and regulated within a framework of civil law".

Unions had no natural or democratic right to complete statutory monopoly as the single channel of representation. Yet that was exactly what the Bullock report's majority proposals sought to do.

Lord Carr proposed that company law should be changed to place a formal duty on directors to take into account the interest of employees as well as shareholders. All companies over a certain size should have a duty to negotiate participation agreements and establish employee councils.

Every company should have to include in its annual report a statement about what had been done each year in promoting participation for all its employees. Tax laws should be changed to encourage share ownership and profit-sharing.

Hundreds of children battered but neighbours stay silent, report says

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The reluctance of neighbours, friends and relatives to tell the authorities is leaving hundreds of children to be battered at home by their parents, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children suggests in its annual report, published yesterday.

Some children "were terribly distressed by assaults of incredible ferocity", the report said. Some were "starved" and neglected to a degree that is unthinkable in a civilized community.

It added: "We are convinced that many more children are suffering needlessly, yet those who know of their circumstances choose to remain silent."

Among the 2,194 children lacking proper care whom the society's inspectors helped last year were a baby aged seven weeks, whose father stopped his cries by putting sticking plaster over his mouth. A boy aged nine was found trussed like a chicken, his hands bound behind his back with a plastic clothes line that also tied his feet.

A girl aged seven was forced to stand in front of a gas fire until her legs were burnt. Three brothers, aged seven, nine and 10, were left bruised and bleeding after their mother had thrashed them with a metal-studded belt, a dog chain and a heavy plastic baseball bat.

Other children were left alone, found locked in their

homes or in cars parked outside public houses and clubs, or left to roam the streets while their parents were at work.

Most of the cases of cruelty were brought to the society's notice by neighbours or anonymous letters, and the report showed that in several cases the children were removed from the care of the betterers.

The society opened 16,705 new cases last year, involving 46,797 children, of whom 885 were physically injured, including 648 suspected of non-accidental injury. 2,194 children were found to lack proper care and 30,878 were considered to be at risk. The society helped 3,327 families who had serious financial difficulties.

Minister's warning of clashes with gypsies

Violent clashes between gypsies and householders throughout Britain will grow if legal sites for gypsies are not soon provided, Mr. Marks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday.

His warning came during a fact-finding tour of authorized and illegal sites in London, in which he emphasized the need for local authorities to meet their statutory duties to provide legal stopping places for the 40,000 to 50,000 caravans.

A cup of tea with Marjorie Lee, the wife of Tony Lee, Secretary of the Romany Guild, in her comfortable caravan at the permanent site at Temple Mills, Stratford, east London, was followed by less amicable meetings with gypsies, residents and officials from the borough of Tower Hamlets.

There gypsy Rover cars came over the hill at the Bow fly-over and settled on the illegal tarmac surfaces of Poplar about 15 months ago to the dismay of local residents.

The Caravan Sites Act, 1968, the largely ignored legislation that imposed a duty on county

and London borough councils to provide adequate accommodation, became the unlikely topic of conversation for all who came out of their caravans and blocks of flats to meet the amiable Mr. Marks.

Mr. William Cooper, chairman of the Romany Guild, who lives there without a water supply or lavatories, said Tower Hamlets council had not performed its duty in providing a site.

Mr. George Chaney, chairman of the council's development committee, said that at a time of financial restriction it was difficult to justify to ratepayers the outlay of £100,000 for a permanent site for 12 caravans. But if the recommendation of the recent Cripps report, that the Government should pay for the establishment of sites, was accepted the council might be able to meet its obligations.

Mr. Marks would not promise that kind of government support but he said he recognized the need for more money for the provision of sites and said he would be talking with the Treasury and his colleagues about the Cripps report.

Mr. Marks said: "Violent confrontation, although as yet sporadic, seems likely to grow

Telephone pagers introduced

By a Staff Reporter

A new Post Office paging service designed for reaching people on the move through the public telephone service is fully operational in London, the Post Office announced yesterday.

The service, known as radiopaging, covers 900 square miles of the capital, and Home Counties and will provide for 20,000 customers initially, rising to a maximum of 100,000.

Within that area people carrying pocket radiopagers—tiny radio receivers that emit a distinctive "bleep" when called—will be automatically connected simply by dialling a 10-digit number on the telephone.

Different tones indicate to the carrier whether he is wanted by home or office and there is a device that allows the receiver to be switched to "memory" to store a call when it is switched off.

For users who need to alert a number of staff simultaneously there is a group call in which up to 99 pages can be bleeped with one call. Calls to pagers are free. They cost from £21 a quarter to rent.



Old Holloway: Miss Sybil Morrison, aged 84, a pacifist prisoner in Holloway in 1940, taking a last look at the suffragette wing of the old prison before its demolition which started yesterday.

Plans for air service disruption if final talks on new Anglo-American pact fail

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

British and American government aviation officials will meet in London on Monday for the last round of talks towards a new North Atlantic air services agreement before the existing one, signed in Bermuda in 1946, expires on June 23.

Although the negotiators think that a new agreement can be signed before the deadline, each side is laying plans to interfere with the Atlantic air services of the other if there is a deadlock.

The British would withdraw some of the rights of American airlines to pick up passengers in London and to take them to destinations in Europe, the Middle East and the East. The Americans are likely to restrict British Airways services from their west coast to London.

But both sides agree that a cessation of air services between the two countries, which carry three million passengers each summer, would be unthinkable.

Britain gave notice that the existing Bermuda agreement

would be cancelled in June because it was considered it had become too weighted in the American's favour.

In negotiating sessions in London and Washington about a half of a new agreement, which will run to some 20 articles, has been agreed. At the London session next week the British will press the Americans to reduce the large number of empty seats on their big fleets of jumbo jets with which they flood the routes.

Britain will drop her original demand that only one American airline should fly between London and New York and London and Los Angeles if at least some of the United States services use Gatwick airport rather than Heathrow.

Referring to the talks, Mr. Del, Secretary of State for Trade, told a conference in London yesterday, called by the Airline Users' Committee on air travel in Europe, that he was determined to remove "the wasteful" over-provision of capacity, which had been a lamentable feature of air services across the north Atlantic in recent years.

Mr. Freddie Laker, chairman of the independent Laker Airways, gave the conference what

he termed "a lunatic example of what happens in the airline industry".

Earlier this week he had operated a DC10 airliner to Toronto with 250 passengers, and at the same time had set out an empty Boeing 707. On the way back from Toronto there were 240 passengers in the 345-seat DC10 and 50 in the 707. It could have put the 707 load into the DC10, but the regulations would not permit him to carry passengers originating from the United Kingdom and Canada in the same aircraft.

"The ironic thing," he said, "is that the Canadian Prime Minister was in London last weekend discussing with other world leaders the problems of the world. One of the problems they discussed was energy and fuel. Apparently waste is acceptable if it means protection of a state-owned airline or sacred cow."

Sir Archibald Hope, deputy chairman of the users' committee, accused airlines in Europe of subsidizing one fare with another and charging what they thought the market could bear. Airlines should be made to publish all their costs.

Psychiatrist examines George Ince for an hour

By Stewart Tendler

A consultant psychiatrist was allowed into Wormwood Scrubs prison yesterday to examine George Ince after his solicitor had issued a writ against the Home Office alleging medical negligence.

Mr. Anthony Whitehead, the psychiatrist, and Mr. James Saunders, Mr. Ince's solicitor, spent more than two hours at the prison. Mr. Ince was examined for more than an hour and Mr. Whitehead was allowed to see prison doctors' reports on Mr. Ince.

The examination took place in the prison's hospital wing in which Mr. Ince is now kept permanently. Mr. Whitehead is expected to complete his report by the beginning of next week. Yesterday neither the psychiatrist nor the solicitor would comment on Mr. Ince's condition.

Previous requests for an independent examination have been refused by the Home Office. Under prison rule 37 a prisoner who is the subject of legal proceedings is entitled to be visited by an independent doctor, and Mr. Saunders' writ opened the way for the use of the rule.

The writ, issued on Wednesday, seeks damages for breach of duty and negligence in the treatment of Mr. Ince. He suffered a thrombosis in January after a history of disturbed behaviour while at Garretts Prison, Leicester.

Mr. Ince is serving a 15-year sentence after being convicted of taking part in the Mountbatten silver bullion robbery. He maintains that he is innocent. Mr. Rees, the Home Secretary, is considering his case.

Minister explains how film came in diplomatic bag

A Treasury minister explained yesterday how a Belgian film called *The Wedding Trough*, which includes a sexual scene involving a man and a pig, came to be brought into Britain in a diplomatic bag.

Mr. Michael Allison, an opposition spokesman on home affairs, had asked how the relevant customs and excise legislation could have been interpreted to allow the film into Britain.

Mr. Robert Sheldon, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a letter: "The film was temporarily imported in April for showing to private club members in the course of a week of Belgian films at the National Film Theatre. The programme was partly sponsored by the Belgian Government, and for reasons of economy and convenience the films were carried in their diplomatic bag."

Customs arranged to view *The Wedding Trough* and found that by reference to their current criteria based on the degree of sexual explicitness and overall sexual content it did not contravene the import prohibition.

Mr. Sheldon said there was a case in such circumstances for obtaining guidance on the possibility of extending the application of the prohibition beyond merely sexual matters. He added: "If a commercial importation of this film should occur, customs would not feel inhibited from seizing it in anticipation of proceedings."

Crisp store fire

A warehouse full of crisps, owned by United Biscuits, was badly damaged by fire at Billingham, Teesside, yesterday. Fire doors stopped the fire from spreading into the crisp factory.



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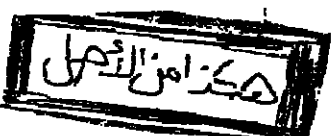
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VAT EST EUROPE

1,500 nvoys says 'Le Monde' strong about British aim

Mr. Douglas Crawford, in Our Own Correspondent, Paris, May 12.

Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, has provoked a storm of controversy in a leading article in the French newspaper *Le Monde* over the European Community's free trade area dominated by the United States.

This seems to me to exceed Frenchmen's like to call play," he wrote in a letter published in the paper today.

Allegations about British intentions were made by *Le Monde* after the recent difficulties on agricultural subsidies in Luxembourg.

The ambassador wrote: "Our entry into the Community, food prices have risen 120 per cent in Britain in years, as against 57 per cent in France." While it was easy to say to what extent was due to other factors, a fact about it, concerning our membership has led to opinion to impute it to Common Agricultural Policy.

It was true that the British Government did not like the Common Agricultural Policy as much, especially with regard to the creation of butter, beef, wine surpluses. Our view on certain aspects of its stability are shared by many.

Sir Nicholas's view, notwithstanding the charge that an intended to dismantle the Community's single market, had substantially reduced its imports from third countries, even of such sensitive items as butter and cheese to New Zealand. This had a bearing on the Community's trade with the Community.

Britain had also been, for a long time, in opposition to American restrictions on arms from the Community, and French and British interests often complemented each other, the ambassador wrote. There could be no question of doubting the commitment of Britain to Europe since the 1975 referendum.

3.4pc rises agreed by Swedish unions to avert mass strikes

Stockholm, May 12.

Sweden appeared today to have averted the possibility of mass strikes which would have further damaged the country's economy already severely affected by recession. The Trade Union Confederation provisionally accepted the government's mediation offer of a 3.4 per cent pay rise for its 800,000 members. Sources said the plan was to be called off for the time being.

But the Privata, Sveriges Allmänna Arbetsförbundet (SAF), today rejected the mediation offer of a 2.3 per cent rise. The SAF said that some 3,000 employees in sensitive industries would withdraw labour tomorrow, but that the SAF would not join in a general strike.

Mediators promised to work round the clock to avert the strikes. Limited disruptive actions are already in progress because of the failure of reaching agreement in the negotiations begun in October.

The talks broke down several times. On April 29 the SAF declared an overtime ban for its members, which has affected the operations of large Swedish businesses, such as Volvo. On Monday the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) had to reduce domestic and overseas flights because of a 2,200 cabin staff walk-out. The staff are being sued for breach of contract.

The troubled labour scene is coupled with a surge of socialist sentiment to the advantage of the Social Democratic Party which ruled Sweden for 44 years until last autumn's election.

The Government led by Mr. Thorbjörn Fälldin, of the Centre Party, has inherited a host of economic problems which are becoming more acute and has to face a general election in 1978.

The Sifo public opinion poll published on Sunday showed an impressive comeback for the Social Democrats and the small Communist Party, their unofficial parliamentary partner. If an election was held this month the Socialists would return to office with 51.5 per cent of the vote, according to the poll, compared with 45 per cent for the non-Socialists.

On May 1 the largest crowds in recent memory unfurled red flags in Swedish cities at huge socialist rallies. At a demonstration in Gothenburg, Mr. Olof Palme, the Social Democratic leader and former Prime Minister, attacked the Government's economic policies.

Mr. Palme's problems are unenviable. Real incomes and standards of living are dropping for the first time in a generation. Inflation is estimated at 10 per cent and there is a large balance of payments deficit.

East month the Government presented to Parliament a crisis programme including an increase in value added tax on all goods and services, a temporary price freeze, cuts in public spending and a tax on non-priority buildings. At the same time, the Government had to allow large subsidies to the faltering shipbuilding industry.

Mr. Gösta Bohman, the Minister of Economic Affairs and leader of the Conservative Party, was responsible for a 1.8 per cent devaluation of the krona in April. He said that devaluation would result in a 1 per cent growth in exports and a 0.8 per cent fall in imports.

The difficulty was that international money markets did not accept the 6 per cent devaluation. The effective devaluation was only 4 per cent at noon today against the currencies in the European "snake".

The need for an effective devaluation was emphasized today by Dr Erik Lundberg, a leading Conservative economist. He said that Sweden was facing the worst recession since the 1930s and proposed another devaluation of the krona and an additional rise in VAT, set from June 1 at 19.6 per cent. He also called for a cut in payroll taxes.



Mr Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, in Bonn.

Communists endorse French nuclear force

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, May 12.

General de Gaulle must be turning in his grave over the endorsement by the Communist Party of the French nuclear deterrent which it has opposed since its inception.

This is yet another radical change in Communist policy on a fundamental point of doctrine, and is designed to consolidate the Communist image as a responsible party, capable of assuming the burden of government.

For maximum effect, it was announced on the eve of tonight's television debate between M Barre, the Prime Minister, and M Francois Mitterrand, the first secretary of the Socialist Party.

The old Stalinist Communist Party has undergone a thorough face-lift in the past year. After the abandonment of the dogma of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the condemnation of the Soviet Government's persecution of dissidents, and the approval of direct elections to the European Parliament, there is now a wholehearted endorsement of one of the cornerstones of Gaullist philosophy—an independent national defence.

For months, in their attacks on the Government's alleged drift back to NATO, and their insistence on national sovereignty, the Communists have tried to outdo the Gaullists on their own ground, and broaden their popular base by appealing to the chauvinist streak deep in the mentality of many Frenchmen who have no sympathy for Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

In so doing they have stolen another march on their Socialist allies, whose official thinking on the nuclear deterrent has not progressed as rapidly.

The common programme of the left of 1972 stipulates the gradual running down of the Force de Frappe.

Last November the Socialist Party's executive came to the conclusion that it was necessary to take its existence into account, but owing to the strong pacifist and anti-nuclear feelings of the party rank-and-file, shied away from an official pronouncement.

Since last summer, the Communists have been making tentative moves in the same direction. Their rank-and-file was also reticent, but more disciplined, and they realized that there was a political opportunity to be seized by getting the credit for reconciling the common programme with the harsh realities of the military situation.

M Jean Kanapa, a Politburo member in charge of international affairs, declared in his report to the Central Committee: "We fought with all our strength the choice and the policy which led to the setting up of a nuclear force."

"Today, this weapon is a fact; today, it represents the sole real deterrent of which the country will dispose for a time to face up to the threat of an aggression."

The Communists not only endorse the existence of the French deterrent, they insist on the need to improve its performance and reduce its dependence on the NATO warning system, which is precisely what the Gaullists have been demanding.

They want to return to the purity of the original nuclear strategy of General Ailleret, and his Gaullist concept of all-round defence, as opposed to later deviations which designated the potential enemy in the East.

But they differ from Gaullist thinking in one respect: instead of the President of the Republic having a monopoly of the decision as to its use, this should be determined by a political and military committee, in which the government parties would be represented.

There is much scope for friction with the Socialists over the updating of the common programme on defence. Some leaders, like M Charles Hernu, their military expert, or M Robert Pontillon, the party's secretary in charge of international affairs, have pleaded for closer military cooperation with other partners of the alliance, and suggested that the French deterrent might at a later stage be merged with a European nuclear force.

Candidacy of Spanish Premier challenged

From Harry Debellus, Madrid, May 12.

In a complaint to the Board of Elections, political opponents of Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, have challenged his legal right to stand for the Congress of Deputies, according to a report published here today.

If the challenge succeeds, it could be expected to reduce the power at the polls of the centre coalition at present headed by Señor Suárez. The result would be a polarization of the vote in the first free democratic elections here in 41 years.

According to the decree-law on elections published last March, candidates may be impugned by candidates of other parties in the same province or district. In such cases, the provincial court of administrative affairs must make an urgent decision on the matter within three days after receiving the documentation from the Board of Elections.

The dispute over Señor Suárez's eligibility has been foreshadowed in a series of articles in conservative newspapers, suggesting that the Prime Minister is bound by the same rule which applies to Cabinet ministers—that he should have resigned before being officially registered as a candidate. However, there is doubt among lawyers in the capital about the correct interpretation of the law.

Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, called on King Juan Carlos today before attending a meeting of the joint Spanish-American committee concerned with United States air and naval bases in Spain. General George Brown, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, also attended the meeting and so did Señor Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister.

EEC tries again on sugar prices

Brussels, May 12.

The EEC resumed negotiations here today with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries on the price the Community is to pay for the 1,250,000 tonnes of sugar it is pledged to import from ACP.

The ACP countries are asking for an 87 per cent increase over last year's price of 267 units of account a tonne, which at the time was equivalent to about £194, but now would be worth more because of the decline in sterling's value.

So far, the EEC has not been prepared to increase last year's price by more than about 2 per cent, which would give ACP producers the same price as their Community competitors will receive this year.

The EEC may, however, agree to improve this offer slightly to take account of the lower storage cost of ACP sugar.

Leaders of Efta meeting to counter threat from Nine

Geneva, May 12.—Leaders of nine in the European Free Trade Association (Efta) will meet today to discuss a new economic pact for the fast-growing group which is expected to come into force tomorrow.

The planned departure of Portugal from Efta to join the European Economic Community has raised fears that Efta may be weakened. Since the C. Britain and Denmark joined the Community in '73, the expansion of the C has strengthened its hand in international trade negotiations at the cost of the less verdant Efta countries.

Dr. Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, who first suggested tomorrow's meeting, will play a role in the meeting, or to prime ministers of the seven Efta members—Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

Years that Efta may be overshadowed by the EEC, as the six Efta states and Finland, an associate member, will abolish most tariff barriers with EEC states on July 1.

As a result, most trade between Efta and the EEC should be free of customs duties. But tariffs will remain for certain industrial products which are in surplus, such as steel and paper.

Diplomatic sources said the Efta leaders were worried that these tariff cuts might aggravate Efta's foreign trade deficit, which jumped from about \$1,300m (£700m) in 1975 to \$10,600m (£5,600m) last year, largely because of imports from the EEC.

The sources said the leaders would examine suggestions for promoting trade in other parts of the world such as the Mediterranean, where the EEC has recently signed a series of widening trade deals with Israel and her Arab neighbours.

The Efta nations are also anxious not to lose out to the Community in Greece—a country already negotiating EEC membership—and Turkey, which is pressing for more access to Community markets for its goods.—Reuters.

Mussolini widow loses case for turn of lands

Rome, May 12.—The widow of Benito Mussolini has lost a legal struggle for the return of property confiscated after the Second World War.

Donna Rachele Mussolini, 186, had claimed that farms and land she owned independently of her husband were wrongly confiscated by the Italian Government.

The case reached Italy's Rome Court in 1963 and after nine years of deliberations court ruled yesterday that the decree authorizing confiscation applied to all property owned by Donna Rachele.—Reuters.

Timely reminder that Marx and Christians do not mix

Our Own Correspondent, Rome, May 12.

The Italian Roman Catholic archbishop has repeated in a recent publication here that Christianity and atheistic Marxism must be regarded as irreconcilable.

The sentiments are not new, their repetition coincided with negotiations in which the Italian Christian Democratic Government is seeking agreement on a governmental programme with the Communist Party.

The comments on Marxism included in a preface to a document on Christian unity. Catholic identity prepared by the steering committee of national episcopal conference being held in Rome.

The document calls on Catholics "not to forget, when they face up to the reality of Italy, the anthropological, metaphysical, materialist, naturalistic and secularist framework in which Marxism has placed its political and economic ideas."

In practice the Marxist approach had not solved human problems, even in the area of Communist domination. The bishops added: "Some people have not wanted to take this into consideration and have even interpreted Christianity in a Marxist key."

In a passage dealing with the meaning of multi-party democracy, the document excludes Catholics from the choice of a Marxist type of party or of belonging to political movements which still remain attached to that materialist and atheist ideology. Such a choice was in conflict with the Christian vision of man and society.

The bishops call for a critical confrontation with the "widespread cultural outlooks of the left."

Hotel death toll reaches 19

Stockholm, May 12.—Thirteen people have died in a flood caused by heavy rain in Sweden today, bringing the total death toll to 19.

The flood, which has caused damage in Sweden costing almost £12m, in the central provinces, rivers and lakes are rising rapidly with the warmer weather.

Pay pact ends eight-week Finnish dispute

Helsinki, May 12.—A crippling eight-week stoppage involving as many as 50,000 technical workers ended today in a compromise two-year package agreement on pay and working hours.

The strike began with demands by electricity production and distribution staff for substantial increases. Their action disrupted electricity supplies, almost entirely shutting down Finnish ports and causing a series of layoffs.

The technicians will receive an initial pay rise of about 31 per cent as well as changes in working hours.—Reuters.

Floods caused by Sweden's thaw

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The flood, which has caused damage in Sweden costing almost £12m, in the central provinces, rivers and lakes are rising rapidly with the warmer weather.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Mugabe says his guerrillas operate in two-thirds of Rhodesia

Mogadishu, May 12.—Mr Robert Mugabe, the black Rhodesian nationalist leader, says his guerrilla forces are operating over two-thirds of Rhodesia and he hopes that operations will be extended into the rest of the country.

He also says that President Muhammad Siad Barre of Somalia has promised help in the fight against the Rhodesian Government.

Mr Mugabe told a press conference in Mogadishu that he came to seek help from Somalia and we have done so with immense success because the response we got from the President was very good.

He added that the prospects were gloomy for a resumption of a Rhodesian conference so long as Britain insisted on the attendance of parties other than the Patriotic Front headed by him and Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Britain should first satisfy the Patriotic Front that it intended to transfer power to the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and to demobilize the forces of Ian Smith (the Rhodesian Prime Minister).

Asked about the inclusion of the United States in seeking negotiated settlement, he said: "We suspect really that Britain is trying to involve the United States so that the process of decolonization does not go the full length in creating a genuine government in Zimbabwe, but is rather a half measure which creates a neo-colonialist regime which can be manipulated."

Salisbury, May 12.—Mr Smith said in a statement today that the latest British proposal in the Rhodesian constitutional dispute was an attempt to pander to the Patriotic Front and to the Presidents of the so-called frontline African states.

He added: "While I am pleased that at last the American initiative has started, I regret that it would appear that the British will not be the headquarters of the operation."

Rhodesian guerrillas were reported to have ambushed an Our Foreign Staff write: Mr Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to make the first official visit by a British minister to Somalia since the country gained independence from Britain in 1960.

He is likely during his two-day visit to explore growing opportunities for British businessmen in local development projects.

Murder of religious leaders sheds light on polygamy

From Peter Strafford
New York, May 12

The murder in Utah of a religious leader reported to have had at least 11 wives has shed new light on the survival of polygamy long after it was officially abandoned by the Mormon Church.

Dr Ruben Alford, a naturalist or healer who works with drugs, was shot by two young women in his office at Murray. The police have been unable to establish a motive, but they are considering the possibility of religious rivalry or family problems.

It was no secret that Dr Alford, a wealthy man of 71, believed in polygamy. In an interview two years ago, he was quoted as saying that he belonged to a fundamentalist Mormon sect and had six wives and 40 children.

He was said to have taken a local reporter to meet three of his wives, living in separate houses in Salt Lake City, to have said that he had been jailed for polygamy, and to have complained bitterly that the Mormon Church treated polygamists like adulterers or sexual deviants.

Miners on secret visit urge halt to Bolivia aid

By David Watts

The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers called on the Government last night to stop £15m in aid for the mining industry in Bolivia after a clandestine visit to the country by three British miners.

The three members of the NUM, all considered right-wings, have just returned from the 16-day visit to mining centres in Chile and Bolivia with reports of gross violations of human rights.

The men, led by Mr Ken Toon, the South Derbyshire area secretary, posed as tourists and salesman of mining equipment after the Chilean Government refused to permit the visit. The Bolivian Government was not approached. Trade unions have been banned in Bolivia since 1974 and leaders of the miners' union have been exiled, jailed or reduced to the status of beggars.

The three had lunch yesterday with Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister of Overseas Development, to report their findings. Mrs Hart said recently in the House of Commons that no decision had been taken on aid to Bolivian mining. But the Bolivian press has reported that agreement has already been reached.

The NUM executive called yesterday for suspension of the aid until liberties are restored. The Bolivian Army has been occupying the tin mines since miners went on strike last June. The strike was the signal for severe repression of mine workers.

Noting that the life expectancy of a miner in a Bolivian mine is 30 years, the visitors said they were amazed that people survived in the appalling conditions they saw.

Despite the record high price of tin on the world market there has been little improvement in miners' lives, the delegates said. The highlight of the journey came in Chile, when the men attended a May Day church service in Santiago, where the congregation broke into applause when the three entered with Chilean trade unionists.

Nondescript fishing town has become strategic port

From Nicholas Ashford
Walvis Bay, May 12

It is hard to believe just by looking at Walvis Bay that this scruffy South Atlantic port is likely to prove the most difficult and controversial issue in the future discussions concerning the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa).

The South African Government has made it plain that wherever may eventually come to power in Windhoek—the members of the South African-sponsored Turnhalle conference or the nationalist South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO)—it intends to retain control of Walvis Bay, the territory's only deepwater port.

The town must be one of the least attractive anywhere on the African coast, a grimy network of streets lined with box-like houses squeezed between the sand dunes of the Namib Desert on one side and the open sea on the other. For most of the year it smells of the fish being processed in its factories and

cameries. There is sand everywhere and the west wind brings fog from the Atlantic. But Walvis Bay's appearance belies its strategic importance. With eight deepwater berths, its harbour is the only port of significance between Lobos in Angola and Cape Town, and dominates the western approaches of the Cape sea routes.

The South Africans feel it is far too important to hand over to an independent black government in Namibia, particularly if that government should decide to embrace Marxism-Leninism, as have the Angolans to the north.

Legally the port and the surrounding 425 square miles of sand are part of South Africa. The enclave was annexed by the British 98 years ago, handed over to the Cape Colony in 1884 and became incorporated with South Africa after the Act of Union in 1910.

The South African Government, for ever fearful of Soviet expansionist intentions in southern Africa, believes the Russians have also noted the

Sabotage ruled out in Saudi oilfield fire

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, May 12.—A mysterious explosion and fire at one of Saudi Arabia's largest oilfields forced the closure of a pipeline but has now been brought under control, officials said today.

The explosion occurred yesterday afternoon at a section of pipeline between two pumping stations.

Mr Frank Jungers, president of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), said: "The fire is practically out and the situation is under control." Asked whether he thought the fire was the result of sabotage, he said: "Absolutely not. It was a pipeline failure."

An American Embassy official said that at least one person was killed and 26 to 30 others injured. Aramco officials said the fire was contained within 12 hours and was being allowed to burn out by itself in the oilfield, 35 miles from here.

The company, which operates most of Saudi Arabia's oil production, expects to meet this month's production according to press reports, the pipeline which was shut down has a capacity of six million barrels of crude oil daily. But Mr Jungers said: "That figure is erroneous. There's not that kind of loss as all." The cause of the explosion was being investigated.

Local anger at decision on Concorde

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, May 12

There have been new threats of disruption at Kennedy Airport as a result of yesterday's court decision that the ban on Concorde flights was illegal.

Local residents have been organising protest demonstrations designed to snarl traffic around the airport, perhaps as soon as Sunday.

Mr Bryan Levinson, head of Concorde Alert, who is one of the more militant opponents, has talked of having protest demonstrations twice a week.

"The people are not going to take this lying down," he said.

How far these angry words are turned into action has still to be seen. Undoubtedly, there will be further protests; but not all the anti-Concorde groups believe that annoying ordinary air passengers is the best way of promoting their case.

Some want to hold a demonstration on Sunday. Others, including Mr Levinson, want to wait a little longer and make more effective.

The first demonstration of this sort, held on April 17, succeeded in disrupting traffic in and around Kennedy. But the turnout was lower than expected, partly as a result of a court injunction, and operations at the airport were hardly affected.

Meanwhile British Airways say that they plan to begin proving flights into Kennedy soon, perhaps in two or three weeks.

Brigadiers' resignation denied by Mr Bhutto

From Richard Wigg
Islamabad, May 12

Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, has denied reports from opposition sources that three brigadiers of the Pakistan Army have resigned. They were all described as senior commanders in Lahore, the troubled capital of Punjab, where during the past week the Army has shot and killed opposition demonstrators for breaking the martial law.

There have been persistent reports in Lahore that the role of the Army in enforcing martial law would impose on Army officers, province-wide, great strain and threaten the command hierarchy.

Brigadiers were singled out as facing maximum strain as senior commanders and senior officers came from the provinces known for their allegiance to the Prime Minister.

Mr Bhutto handled the questions at a press conference, but not conclusively. The reports from Lahore were "not correct," he said. He added that he was not aware of any Army resignations.

According to opposition sources, the brigadiers were in charge of the Army's martial law, especially the "shoot to kill order."

Tearing the sectors into which Lahore is divided, I examined the morning at the headquarters of at least two sectors where the commanders have been changed very recently.

The names of four brigadiers and their districts were published in the local press last month, when martial law was imposed in Lahore, as well as in Karachi and Hyderabad.

At sector No. 1, a middle-ranking officer, Brigadier Ghaffar Muhammad, has replaced him, whose name was not divulged. This sector has borne the brunt of the week's disturbances.

At sector No. 2, I was similarly told that Brigadier Ishaq Khan went away yesterday, with the information volunteered that the new commander was to address his officers in the afternoon.

According to opposition sources, the resignations were not accepted and the brigadiers are awaiting courts martial.

A friend of one of the brigadiers told me that they had submitted their assessment of the problems facing the Army in writing, including the shoot-to-kill orders, the local reaction to Friday's killings and dissatisfaction over equipment.

The brigadiers' demarche would have been while it was obvious to anyone in Lahore that the Army had virtually opted out, leaving law and order enforcement to the police.

The return of the Army today to the streets prompted local rumour that fresh troops have been flown in to replace the troubled units.

Although Friday's shootings seem to have been the catalyst, Monday's incident is more illuminating of the officers' sentiment. There were six processions during the curfew lifting. They shouted anti-Army slogans, and five of the majors in charge of patrols handling the incidents decided against armed action. The sixth, however, favoured it.

The example of the Army commander at Multan, a Punjab city, where there has been serious but unreported violence during the past two months, is much quoted by the opposition in the present controversy. He has refused to how the presence and assumed the functions, preserving the Army's popularity.

Mr Bhutto was speaking to reporters shortly after he had reminded the armed services to remain loyal to the National Assembly, that it was their constitutional duty to assist the civil Government and that they were not "going to the support of an individual."

Pakistani troops retake road from rebels

Rawalpindi, May 12.—The Pakistan Army has retaken a 90-mile stretch of the Karakoram road in the mountainous north-east, which hostile tribesmen had cut off by causing landslides and blowing up bridges.

According to sources, the troops fought Kholistan tribesmen, who had snatched 34 camps of an estimated 7,000 Chinese road-builders in an engagement last week. Seven soldiers and at least 37 tribesmen were killed.

The Chinese were reported to be safe but the road linking Pakistan with China remains blocked in several places.

A division of 15,000 troops, including a commando battalion of the Special Services Group (SSG), have taken positions along the affected part of the road, which is 285 miles south-west of the Chinese border, the sources said.

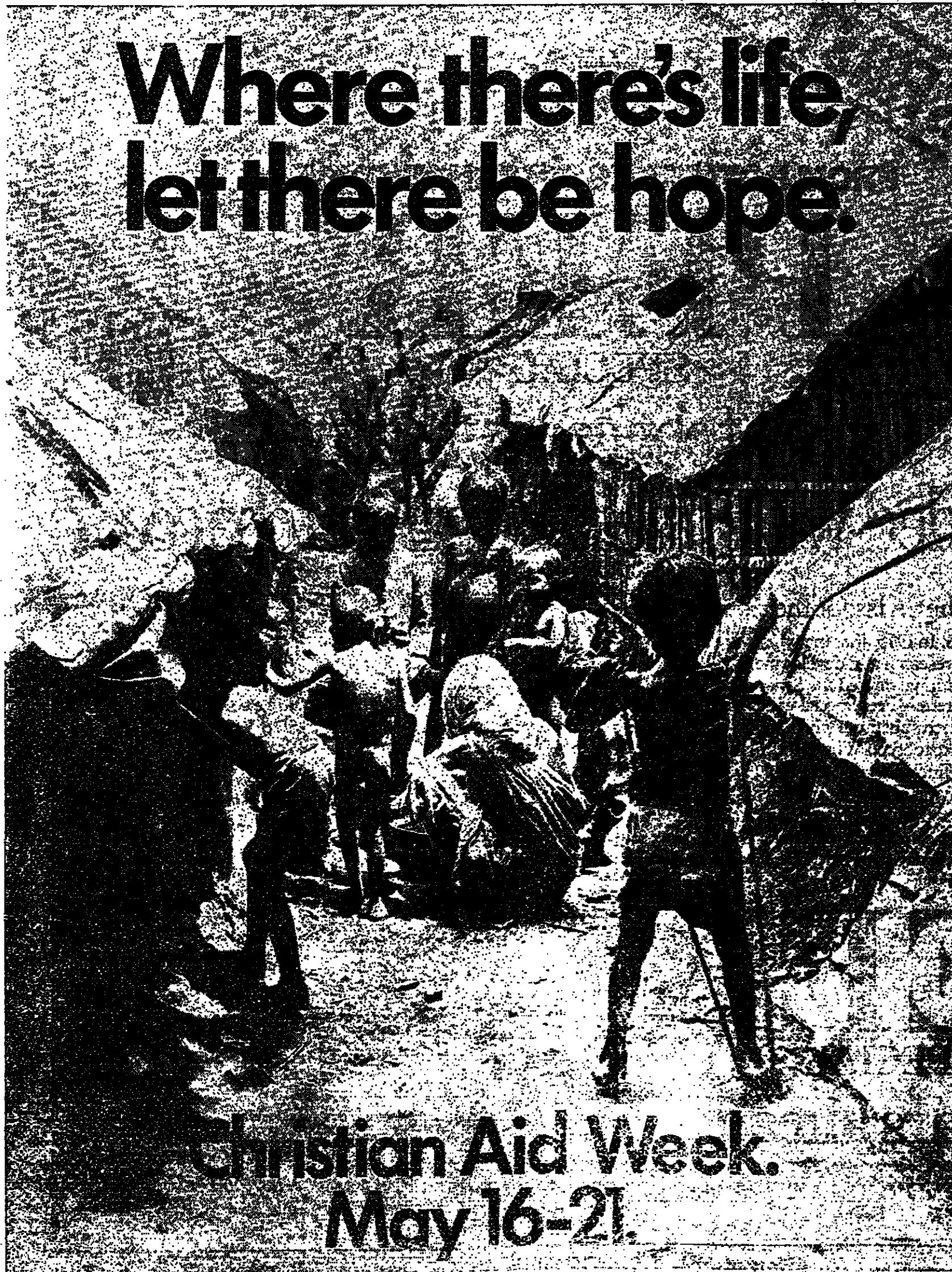
The Kholistan, said to be supporting the campaign to oust Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, began surrounding the Chinese on April 23. They destroyed three small bridges which troops had since replaced with wooden structures.

The Army launched two assaults last week, supported by light artillery and ground attack jet fighters.

The Pakistan Government has denied reports that the road project was closed longer than for a brief period, but has not given foreign reporters permission to see the area.

The joint China-Pakistan project was begun in 1963 and runs along the Indus River valley and the old Silk Road route through the Karakoram pass to the border town of Khunjerab. It stretches for 492 miles through some of the world's most difficult terrain.—AP.

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Russia could use missile silos for ray weapon

Continued from page 1

observation for about 10 years, and is reckoned to have cost about \$500m (£300m). American photoreconnaissance has watched the construction of two spheres needed to capture and store energy from nuclear-driven explosives. Air Force experts are convinced that the Russians may be using nuclear explosive generators as a power source to drive accelerators capable of producing high intensity proton beams of killing potential.

The evidence was presented to the scientific community (and was incidentally reinforced by the indications of Soviet physicist visiting the United States in July), but the Air Force hypothesis was rejected as being beyond Soviet capabilities. General Keegan therefore got together a team of brilliant young physicists to see whether the difficulties the Russians would have encountered could be overcome. Within a few months they found they could all be solved.

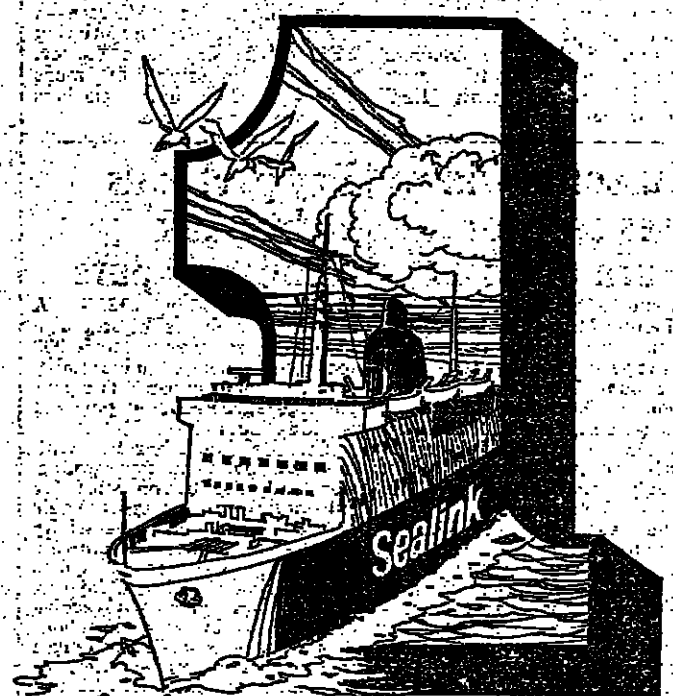
It was believed for example that power cables could not be conducted over any known Soviet cable without burning it up, but General Keegan's team found that gas-pressure tubes would have been in use in Russia. They also discovered that the Russians can store 40 times the density of energy that can be stored in the non-conducting world. And they found that Soviet technology required for "switching" is 10 years ahead of American equipment.

"Switching" energy from storage capacitors to the electron injector is an important stage in setting beam weapons to function.

In 1975 General Keegan presented his findings to Mr William Colby, then head of the CIA. The CIA studied the data and wrote a report which Air Force intelligence never saw. Mr Colby passed on some information to Dr Kissinger, just before his trip to negotiate with the Russians about strategic arms limitations, and apparently told him there was a "facility related to nuclear functions that were unknown but that it might have high scientific application."

Aviation Week said that while that exception, "none of the USAF intelligence data has ever been made available to the President, the Secretary of State for the National Security Council."

Aviation Week said many development schemes of great simplicity were open to the Russians.



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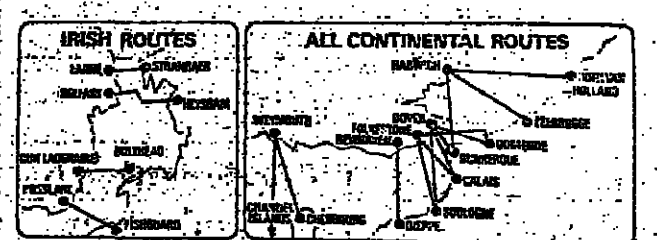
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David Robinson

His religious fanaticism would seem more at home in the Bible belt of America

Mr Paisley: this unholy alliance with Ulster's men of violence

Belfast
During the last 10 disturbing and often violent days most of the words used by ordinary Ulstermen to describe the Rev Ian Paisley have been unprintable. Politicians and government officials have been more restrained for public consumption, and "bully" has been the most frequent term of abuse.

Defined by the *Penguin English Dictionary* as "blustering ruffian", the description catches perfectly the outward persona of the MP for Antrim, Northern Ireland, but it does nothing to convey the religious fanaticism that is an essential element in his character and has coloured the atmosphere surrounding the attempt to coerce the population into a general strike.

That was best conveyed earlier this week in the market town of Ballymena, an inspiring and unfriendly spot which is the spiritual home of Mr Paisley's self-styled Free Presbyterian Church and bastion of his undoubted support among the province's most extreme loyalists.

Adopting his own peculiar blend of religion and politics, which smacks more of the seventeenth century than anything readily associated with the modern world, Mr Paisley launched into a typical piece of oratory to the crowds blocking the streets with an evil-smelling assortment of farm machinery.

"Once we are in this town and the hour is grave, the day is dark, the enemy has come in like a flood, there are men here who are determined to break us down, to break the will of the Ulster people and stamp them into the ground," he said. "O, God, give us great deliverance. O, God, deliver Ulster. We pray that you bend the heart of Mason, we pray that you bring that man down from his lofty throne and we pray that he cannot set himself against the ordinary people of Ulster and set away with it."

Divine intervention failed to make place, and in less than 24 hours Mr Paisley had been arrested for obstruction — he



Mr Paisley: rigid Calvinist beliefs appear to have clouded his political judgment

was released later — and the farmers' blockade dispersed after a serious clash with more than 200 British soldiers had been narrowly avoided.

But the speech, the imagery and the willingness shamelessly to invoke God which has shocked many staunch Protestants, helps to explain why Mr Paisley has suddenly embarked on a course that appears to have isolated him from all but an extreme minority of loyalist voters.

Since the early days when he preached, unknown and unqualified in a Nissen hut in Belfast's dockland, Ian Richard Kyle Paisley has adopted a fundamental Protestantism which was destined to put him outside the bounds of the established church. His father was a breakaway Baptist who set up his own tabernacle. The Free Presbyterian Church was founded in 1951.

His roisterous style of preaching, with its frequent

attacks on so-called Papists and who might appear to advocate a compromise, would be more at home in the Bible belt of America than any church on the British mainland.

It was a little known establishment in South Carolina, the Bob Jones University of Greenville, which 11 years ago conferred the honorary doctorate of divinity on Mr Paisley, only two days after his release from prison for taking part in street disturbances.

A willing outsider from Ulster's religious and political establishment, Mr Paisley appears to have allowed his rigid Calvinist beliefs to cloud his political judgment about the feasibility of a strike to bring back majority rule to Stormont.

Extricating one strand of his personality from the other is almost impossible, but reactionary Protestantism — of the

most puritanical nature — is one factor that unites the ragbag of paramilitary leaders, politicians and factory workers that makes up the United Unionist Action Council.

The religious element in the strike has apparently enabled Mr Paisley to turn a blind eye to the vicious intimidation carried out daily in the streets, often encouraged by his rabble-rousing speeches, to demonstrations in all parts of Northern Ireland. Even the most cautious and threatening of the press conferences held by the unionist leaders have been the amazement of foreign journalists, begun with a session of prayer led by one of Mr Paisley's ministers.

The council, in keeping with Free Presbyterian ideology, has refused to meet on a Sunday after the most dangerous confrontations with the security forces have been preceded by an aggressive round of communal hymn singing.

Mr Paisley's unholy alliance with the self-confessed thugs who form Ulster's Protestant private armies was potentially the most dangerous combination of forces existing in a society already sadly corrupted by seven continuous years of violence. The convincing style of his rejection of the mass of the Protestant community has provided some political observers with hope for the future. This cautious optimism has been fortified by Mr Paisley's rash promise at an early stage of the campaign to retire from politics if it failed.

But those few who know the man well believe there is precious little chance that he will honour his commitment and withdraw completely from the struggle to return the province to its dominant position.

"The very best we can hope is that he will retreat temporarily to his pulpit," one of his many political opponents said yesterday. "But even there he will still continue to represent the unacceptable face of Unionism."

Christopher Walker

There is no substitute for a good ambassador

With Peter Jay's appointment to Washington, ambassadors may reasonably be said to be in the news again. They do not infrequently come to the attention of those pseudo-radicals and chip-bitten ideologues who say they are unnecessary.

I should perhaps declare an interest. My father was an ambassador, in Copenhagen and Warsaw. My brother is a secretary of state. As a correspondent in Bonn and Moscow, and a foreign editor, I have known some ambassadors and many diplomats.

The Foreign Service is evidently imperfect. Some posts are clearly overstaffed. Some ambassadors do not impress. Many diplomats are competent but frankly wet.

But it is simplistic to argue that in this day of instantaneous communications and fast jets an ambassador is an unnecessary luxury. A good ambassador is an important asset, and most positive British ambassadors in Washington have been good, with Lords Franks, Sheffield, Caccia and Harlech perhaps outstanding.

In some ways the ambassador's job has grown rather than shrunk. Governments are extending their activities into more and more fields; their decisions are becoming increasingly intertwined with international considerations.

In addition to straight diplomatic issues like Rhodesia or the Middle East, an ambassador to Washington is likely to find himself involved in issues like Concorde's landing at a defence deal, an IMF loan, or a row between the EEC and the United States.

Contrary to some impressions, a minister in London cannot constantly ring up his opposite number in Paris or Washington, even if the difference does not often make it difficult. If Dr Owen tried this on Mr Vance, he might be politely told to jump in the Thames. For all but the most important issues, the diplomatic machinery must be used.

A really good ambassador will be able to report on the President's thinking with a depth and fullness which cannot be matched by other sources. But the President of the United States is not at the disposal of a British ambassador. If Mr Carter saw too much of Mr Jay, the French and German ambassadors, and a host of others, might start squawking.

Not much less important than the President's thinking is that of Congress, whose decisions often vitally affect British interests. Our man must know the key Congressmen, and the mood of both Houses.

He must also spread the word in the USA's constituent states (there is no national newspaper) that Britain is more than British Leyland. Foreign investment requires confidence. Ambassadors are there to inspire it. That means much travelling and speaking to large or sympathetic audiences.

Intelligence, or at least the impression of intelligence, is required, especially in international organisations like the United Nations, the EEC or Nato, where negotiating ability and a forceful personality are also necessary.

Roger Berthoud



The British Embassy in Washington: a good postwar record

Speak of the devil, and hands up who doesn't like iron oxide?

Headaches and dizziness, flushing of the face and pains in the back. It's the way I sometimes feel on a Monday morning.

It is reported that exorcists have been called to a school in Malaysia, following a case of mass demonic possession among the children, which had necessitated the temporary closure of the school. The exorcists thus summoned were none other than pale young clerics, resolute to cast out the devil and all his works, but — presumably in the local tradition — which doctors, called *bomohs*, whose techniques differ in one important and puzzling particular from those employed by their western equivalents. Their ritual, it is said, involves chanting; so far, so good, for although I cannot claim any detailed knowledge of the ceremony of exorcism, it seems only reasonable to suppose that it involves the intoning of words, even if only in the form of prayers, that correspond more or less closely to the chants of the witch-doctors. It is the next bit, however, that is the most intriguing: a "bangle" into the imagination: the *bomohs* practice includes "the spreading of iron oxide".

Iron oxide, as you will of course be aware (and as the *Pharmacopoeia* will remind you you have, by any surprising chance, momentarily forgotten), is closely connected, if not identical, with Red Precipitate. It is used for tinting zinc carbonate to prepare calamine, and also, on occasion, for the treatment of arsenic poisoning, when a dose of 0.3g of iron oxide is considered suitable. But that is common knowledge, and I fear I may be irritating you by offering you information that is second nature to you. Nevertheless, we must be comprehensive, and I have to

state the even more obvious in recording the fact that Saccarated Iron Oxide, which is (naturally) given for the same purposes as saccarated ferrous carbonate, is a reddish-brown powder with a slightly chalybeate taste (my own palate, admittedly sensitive to an exceptional degree, has always persuaded me that the chalybeate taste is, more properly described, as pronounced than its slight, but I would not wish to hold things up by quibbling); it is used in the treatment of iron-deficiency anaemia, by intravenous injection.

Of course, there is no rose without a thorn, and I take it that you will be equally familiar with the knowledge that the intravenous injection of iron oxide, be it never so saccarated, tends to be followed by headache, dizziness, flushing of the face, nausea and vomiting, pains in the back and legs, dyspnoea, bronchospasm and fever. This, I may say in passing, certainly accounts for the way I sometimes feel on a Monday morning, for it is apparent that ill-disposed persons have been in the habit of entering my bed-room and shoving quantities of saccarated iron oxide into me; it does, however, make one wonder why a course of treatment is still recommended and undertaken when it seems to relieve the sufferer of the ailment that necessitates it, only at the cost of giving him a variety of additional afflictions to which a touch of iron-deficiency anaemia might seem decidedly preferable.

Be that as it may, there is only one more item of supererogatory information about iron oxide that I must present for my account to be complete —

complete, indeed, to the point of nausea and vomiting, if not pains in the back, dyspnoea, bronchospasm and fever — and that is the news that iron oxide is on the list of officially approved colouring matters that may be used in the preparation of food, under the terms of the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1966 and the Colouring Matter in Food (Scotland) Regulations 1966, along with alkanet, annatto, carotene, chlorophyll, flavine, indigo, orchil, osage orange, persian berry, safflower, saffron, sandalwood, turmeric, bole, titanium dioxide and ultramarine, not forgetting silver, gold or aluminium in leaf or powder form, these last only being permitted (of course) for the external colouring of dragees and the decoration of sugar-coated flour confectionery.

Now if you have followed me thus far, and not succumbed to headache, dizziness and flushing of the face, or even pains in the back and

legs, bronchospasm and fever, you may have started to wonder what an exhaustive listing of the properties and uses of iron oxide has got to do with a story of Malaysian witch-doctors being called in to cure 56 pupils of the Sultan Abdul Hamid School at Taphu who were suffering from "diabolical possession".

You may well ask: Indeed, the entire purpose of this discussion is to ask the same question on my own account. For if you will think back to a point before the dyspnoea and vomiting set in, you may recall that the witch-doctors, or *bomohs*, were in the habit of swearing by iron oxide as an excellent specific against devils, and set out for the stricken school bearing quantities of it to spread around as part of their ritual of exorcism.

Now it is possible that being inhabited by devils tends to induce severe iron-deficiency anaemia, though by all accounts (including the one

from Malaysia) sufferers from this particular complaint are more likely to be seized by an impulse to shriek wildly, roll upon the ground and foam at the mouth, in stark contrast to the understandable haggard and pallid conduct to be expected from one whose blood lacks iron. As a matter of fact, the symptoms of demonic possession seem to correspond less to those of iron-deficiency anaemia than to the effects of the cure for it, for, without wishing to claim an intimate knowledge of dyspnoea and bronchospasm, or any very extensive experience of nausea and vomiting, pains in the back and legs, headache, dizziness and flushing of the face, I must say that these troubles strike me as being far more like my under-ironed state than the results of demonic possession than of any other of the ills that flesh is heir to.

But in any case, the *bomohs* appear to have no intention of using the iron oxide (I am, incidentally, unable to say whether they use the saccarated or the red hydrated kind, or some other variety altogether) in the form of injection; they are content to sprinkle it around like powdered rat-poison, possibly in the hope (or the knowledge, I suppose) that it offers an irresistible and fatal temptation to devils, who cannot help gobbling it up (first emerging from any schoolboys they happen to be occupying at the time, even at the risk of succumbing immediately to a fate far worse than bronchospasm, dyspnoea and flushing of the face).

If not, however, it is hard to see where the iron oxide comes in at all. I know that

the flower of the garlic-plant is squeezed by rampages, and that prudent housewives, fearing a visit from Count Dracula in the middle of the night, leave a sprig or two on every windowsill, and it may be that iron oxide has the same kind of efficacy where devils are concerned, but I seem unlikely apart from anything else, devils have existed a good deal longer than modern chemistry, so how would it have been done so earlier times?

The only solution I can offer, and I am aware even as I offer it that it is as feeble as a sufferer from acute iron-deficiency anaemia, is that the witch-doctors, sceptics to a man, are already convinced that the children are suffering from nothing worse than a wish to have some time off from lessons, and have devised a plan to get the school reopened and their own reputation enhanced at the same time. They sprinkle iron oxide about, mutter their spells, then approach each of the children and whisper in their ears that if they don't stop horsing around immediately they will get their little bottoms kicked from Taphu to Kuala Lumpur and back. The children scuttle back to their desks, the *bomohs* get the credit, modestly attributing it all to iron oxide, and everybody is happy. In other words, they are rather in the position of the doorstep salesman who announces that he is selling vermillion powder. "Elephant powder?" asks the bemused householder, "what on earth's that?" "It keeps elephants away, without fail." "But there are no elephants round here." "You see? It works."

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The complaints say that the environmentalists are guilty of cluttering up the doorways and passages with their bikes, and with bulky deposits of the articles, paper they encourage other people to recycle.

Further, the Friends are blamed for blocking the building's drains with teabags, causing a flood which brought down a ceiling in the ground floor offices of Ginnerbread, the group representing single parent families.

Ginnerbread say they harbour no hard feelings and that they have passed off all the incidents to date with good humour. Friends of the Earth, the Friends of the building, say they are very intensely used by others as well as them, and oddly, that people should have more important things to worry about.

Go east

Peking has at last entered officially the field of international tourism. A unique colour supplement in English in the leading Hongkong Communist daily, *Ta Kung Pao*, invites foreign travellers to make holiday tours in China. Recommended routes concentrate on Canton and Kwangtung province, which borders Hongkong, but selected groups of tourists

are permitted to make brief visits by rail or plane to Peking. "Foreign travellers" who want to make a China tour can get in touch with Chinese embassies, consulates in foreign lands, foreign associa-

tions which have friendly contacts with China or approved foreign travel agencies which have business relations with China. "International Travel Service" is the simplest states.

"Foreign tourists" during their stay in China will have opportunities to visit factories, people's communes, schools, hospitals, memorial sites from revolution, historical relics as well as famous scenic spots. There is no indication of restrictions on nationality but international tourists agents in Hongkong say that the British will be specially favoured.

In 1973 the Chinese began to build modern hotels and guest houses in Canton, Peking, Kweichow and in the beautiful West Lake area of Hangchow after groups of Chinese travel officials and hotel managers had visited Hongkong to study tourist facilities there. Foreign cruise ships are also being permitted to enter Chinese territorial waters for the first time since 1950.

This is the last Diary compiled by Michael Learyman's former colleagues, Robin Zouren and Alan Hamilton. They will be succeeded by the column which resumes on Tuesday.

PHS

The Times Diary

Ignoble rolls, inglorious sandwiches

To conclude our series on the state of refreshments in the stately homes of Britain, Alan Hamilton visited Woburn Abbey while Robin Zouren went to Leeds Castle in advance of the EEC foreign ministers who meet there later this month.

For Woburn we already had a readers' recommendation of the waitress-service. Oak and Pine restaurants in the Abbey grounds, but we chose the self-service Flying Dutchman buffet, which in its design and furnishings is reminiscent of a motorway service station, although with a superior touch of original Giles cartoons on the walls.

It was early in the day and almost deserted, so service was instant. Simple hot meals with chips are on the menu, but the main fare is foil-wrapped sandwiches, scones and buns, pre-packed pies, and a small selection of cakes which appeared to be frozen. Another motorway touch was the paper cups and plates (with jubilee design) and plastic cutlery.

We had a ham sandwich (30p) in none-too-fresh brown bread, a rather dry sauce (12p), a rather dry lettuce (12p), a rather dry tomato (12p) and a rather dry cucumber (12p) which, although real, were muddy and nondescript, and a glass of raspberry juice (14p) which the 4-year-old juice taster declared to be "nasty". Total bill for two adults and a child was £11.14, which seemed reasonable.

Service was friendly and cheerful, and the place was clean, although a slight smell of chip fat lurked in the air. Although adequate, but nothing to write home about. Entrance to the ground is only 50p per car, but many of the attractions within cost extra.

At Leeds Castle, in Lord Conway's opinion the most beautiful in the world, the newly admitted visitors tend to reel a little at the cost £60 for the grounds and a further 50p for the house. And, when we visited, several people, looking inside the rear room in a Jacobean barn with an impressive

display of exposed timberwork, decided to go outside again to look for something more attractive to eat.

The room, capable of seating 140 or more, has been handsomely furnished with solid hardwood tables and rush-seated chairs, but the investment has not yet provided a self-service counter at which customers can rest their trays while choosing their feast.

The ham rolls (20p) were doughy, and skimpily filled, the scones (14p) with butter flat and uninteresting. The fruit cake was anaemic of complexion and far too sweet. Tea, poured in brown mugs, was 12p, and portion-packed jam 4p.

The unimaginative spread was distinctly disappointing for such a setting but the fact that an ante-room still had the workmen in may mean that more adequate provision is to be made shortly. At any rate we must hope the EEC foreign ministers get something a bit more special.

All in all our survey suggested that stately home owners and administrators are only just beginning to take the matter of feeding their visitors seriously.

While we found isolated examples of catering that justified the visit for its own sake (notably in the National Trust's west country properties), and re-

ceived readers' recommendations for several more (again mostly National Trust), it is evident that many places provide food far less distinguished than the surroundings. For the sake of tourists we hope the improvement which has evidently begun makes rapid progress.

Congratulations

I am grateful to the incorrigible versifier, Stan Crowther, MP for Rotherham, for a dirty with which to celebrate Peter Jay's appointment to Washington. It goes, he says, to the tune of the old Cockney music hall song, *All me life I wanted to be a barrer-boy*.

All me life I wanted to be an ambassador. An ambassador I always wanted to be. I do my diplomacy with lots of family pride. For I'm a son-in-law, a son-in-law. From over the other side. I turn my back upon *The Times* with pleasure.

Take me where the biggest peanuts grow! Got me foot upon the starter. For I love Jimmy Carter. I ought to have been an ambassador years ago! Exit left trippingly, twirling cane, and raising straw boater with a grin.

Hare and Bound, who are knowledgeable in country matters, surprised me by advertising: *Mulberry trousers. 100p per cent cotton.*

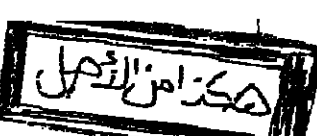
Doubtful

Apart from ourselves, Libya surely have the longest official name of any country: the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. All this ought to go on the envelope, and to ensure delivery in a country that still requires an Arabic translation of a passport, it ought to be written in Arabic as well.

How to do so puzzles even Libya. In a recent inquiry to the Washington Embassy was referred to three people before anyone knew. The answer came back haltingly at last but there were several loud asides in Arabic to an aide close by: "Which word comes first? Arab or Libyan? Socialist? Last isn't it?"

Unneighbourly

Friends of the Earth, the environmental conservationists, are the target of criticism from some of their neighbours in a building that shares with eight other pressure groups and charities in Soho.





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THE REALITY OF PRESSURE

While President Carter's main task on his visit to Europe was to give a new lead to the West as a whole and to diffuse its economic and military strategy with a new definition and sense of purpose, he found himself also to do a little diplomatic work on both of the two festering local conflicts of the eastern Mediterranean, each of which in its own way is potentially very damaging to the West. He flew to Geneva to meet President Assad of Syria, who is emerging more and more as the key figure in a possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and while in London he had separate talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of Greece and Turkey—two countries which have lately allowed their private quarrel to take precedence over their sense of belonging to a larger Atlantic community or "free world".

Although Greece and Turkey are members of Nato while Israel and the Arab states are not, the problems which these two conflicts present for America are policy are to some extent parallel. The Middle East in recent years has become increasingly an American sphere of influence and America now has strategic interests there at least as great as those in the rest of Europe. And since 1974 public sympathy for peace—or at least for the Greek case in Cyprus—has grown in the United States to the point where it is comparable to public sympathy for Israel. The pro-Greek and pro-Israeli lobbies in Congress are about equally strong, and indeed largely overlap (though based on separate but equally local ethnic communities), while strategic considerations have made successive American governments increasingly reluctant to take sides openly against either Turkey or the Arab states.

It is thus almost inevitable that American governments could not conflict sooner or later with the Greek and Israeli lobbies. The conflict was perhaps sharpened in the case of the last administration by the fact that the Democratic Party (then in opposition, but in a majority in

Congress) is historically and, so to speak, "naturally" the party of ethnic grievance. It was equally natural that Mr. Carter as a presidential candidate for the presidency should seek and find both Jewish and Greek-American support, and it is perhaps equally inevitable that, as President, he should disappoint some of the hopes aroused in those lobbies by his election campaign.

The fact is that the hopes in question were exaggerated and unrealistic. There are too many Israelis and too many self-styled "friends of Israel" in the United States who believe that the only decent position for an American government on the Middle East is one of uncritical support for every policy and acceptance of every request of the Israeli Government. There are too many Greeks and Greek-Americans who expect an American President to stamp his foot and cut off every kind of aid to Turkey—if necessary even impose an economic boycott—until the last Turkish soldier has left Cyprus.

The Greek and Israeli Governments themselves (and indeed the Government of Archbishop Makarios in Cyprus) are more sensible than that. They can see that good relations between the United States and their local adversaries are not in themselves "bad" for their own interests, but on the contrary are necessary if the United States is to be in a position to negotiate a satisfactory settlement of their respective disputes. The Greek Government has set out what Mr. Carter has allowed an increase in the credit to Turkey for arms purchases and has even said that he hopes to see the Defence Cooperation Agreement ratified. He has also said that he does not expect this to happen in the immediate future and has stressed (while avoiding any explicit "linkage") the importance of a settlement in Cyprus. The Turks are thus given the chance to make the necessary concessions in Cyprus without giving way to open American pressure. But the "pressure" is unmistakably there.

The Israeli Government, likewise, can see that Mr. Carter's

support for the idea of "a homeland for the Palestinians" has rapidly forged friendship with Arab leaders, even his vetoing of the sale of Israeli aircraft containing American components to Ecuador, do not imply any lessening of his support for the existence of Israel or any unwillingness to provide Israel with all the weapons and technology she needs to defend that existence. Both Mr. Vance and Mr. Allon reiterated this after their meeting in London on Wednesday. Indeed the Israeli Government, like Mr. Karamanlis in Greece, is visibly irritated by attacks on the United States in its domestic press—both because such attacks are intended to undermine the domestic political standing of the respective governments (both strongly pro-American) and because such attacks may encourage the adversary (Turk or Arab) in his turn to expect too much from Mr. Carter and thus stiffen his resistance or his demands.

But the parallel can only be pushed so far. At a certain point it has to be reversed. For after all Israel, like Turkey, is occupying land beyond its recognized frontiers and it is likewise Israel rather than the Arabs that is most vulnerable to American pressure. Mr. Carter's support for Israel's existence should not be doubted, but it is increasingly obvious that the "suggestions" he will eventually come up with for a solution of the Middle East conflict will be similar to the Rogers plan of 1969, involving withdrawal by Israel to its pre-1967 frontiers with only minor alterations. Almost any unprejudiced observer will agree that this is a price Israel must be prepared to pay for peace. Yet to do so will involve a painful reversal of Israel's present frenzied policy of settlement in the occupied areas. As with Turkey, so with Israel, Mr. Carter will as far as possible avoid the appearance of pressure (especially now when both countries are in the throes of election campaigns). But he must know that in Israel as in Turkey, if peace is to be achieved the reality of pressure will have to be felt.

THE MINERS' SMALL STEP FORWARD

While the Government plans to meet the coal industry of the future, the coal industry of the future and favours an order for the unwieldy Drax power station partly to provide a consumer or the anticipated harvest of coal, production and productivity in the mines remain paradoxically stagnant. When the promised early retirement scheme began, there is even a possibility that production will all as sharply as it should have been rising. The two-year-old scheme to provide incentives to higher productivity has been a failure, as it always seemed likely to be. The price of coal has not risen as much as a competitive advantage over other fuels. It is now sure to be the time of a oil crisis. The rapidly increasing public cost of the proposed investment in new mines is likely to come increasingly in question if the performance of the industry does not improve. Yesterday's endorsement of an executive of the National Union of Mineworkers of a union strike plan for a more effective productivity scheme is a small step towards a decision at would be of great significance to the industry. It may be so, as it happens, be of most equal importance for the future of incomes policy for the coming year. For reasons

that have as much to do with the coal industry as the coal industry itself, the industry, the plan is sharply opposed by members on the left of the union, although they did not feel strong enough to force a vote yesterday.

In 1974 the miners turned down a ballot to produce a scheme proposed by the National Coal Board. The union's leaders had had a considerable share in drawing it up, but they were divided over its merits and finally recommended rejection. Left-wingers declared that the plan, which would have distributed the rewards of higher productivity in the pits where it was achieved instead of through the industry, offended against workers' solidarity and might tempt the greedy into taking risks. There is an ingrained suspicion in the industry of any thing reminiscent of the old piecework system. But as the past two years have shown, solidarity cuts little ice.

Similar arguments are being pressed again, but this time more is at stake than miners' bonuses. According to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, a scheme similar to the one rejected in 1974 would, on average, have made miners £20 a week better off today than

they are in fact. The union is setting its sights on increases of about that order next year, and has little patience with any talk of phase three. The only chance the Government has of satisfying the miners without effectively lifting constraints on everyone else is to include provision for productivity deals of the kind required. Correspondingly, opponents of phase three have an interest in persuading the union to reject a deal.

The Government's tactics are precarious. It stresses that if an exception were to be made for productivity schemes, it would need to be restricted strictly to agreements that paid for themselves in higher efficiency. Sir Derek is sure that the miners would, but if it did, who would tell them that they had forfeited their bonuses? In addition, the existing rule against having pay rises more often than once a year (which Mr. Healey hopes to see survive) would on the face of it prevent the miners from enjoying their bonuses until next March. The union would press for this August. A phase three agreement written to find room for all these possibilities promises to be a cloudy document, as likely to spur the ingenuity of union negotiators as to discourage excessive claims.

Personal social services

From Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP for Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford (Conservative)

Sir, Terry Bamford's excellent article on the Personal Social Services (May 10) makes a number of very important points with which I find myself wholly in accord.

Spending on these services expanded by 70 per cent between 1970 and 1975. Of necessity, for reasons that are well recognised by most in the Social Work profession, this rapid expansion could not continue. This makes it all the more important that we should head off the key points made by Mr Bamford.

First, Whitehall must stop heaping new duties on to local authorities, whether by statute or by circular. For instance, I am not convinced that the costly, time-consuming, bureaucratic procedures aimed at preventing child abuse are effective. Every single recent tragedy has involved cases already well known to the authorities. Time and money spent in caring for children can be at risk would therefore seem to be a better use of money than compiling elaborate registers of families, many of whom must be low risk cases. Further, a little sensible preparatory work for case conferences would cut the time spent on these by a half or two thirds.

Second, we politicians must be much braver in establishing priorities. You cannot give priority to everything. I and my colleagues have in hand an intensive study to establish where the highest priorities in the social services lie; we hope to publish our views later in the year.

Third, there is a real need for a new partnership with voluntary and self-help groups. I am impressed how far the social work profession has moved in recognizing the importance of the voluntary and self-help sectors. The aim of the best social work has always been to help people to help themselves. This applies equally to groups and communities. The idea that responsibility can always be shifted off onto the Government must be rejected. But partnership does not mean that volunteers are just "a cheap pair of hands". The voluntary sector and the self-help groups must be closely involved in the planning of community social services from the start.

Finally, to make this effective, I am fully persuaded that the proportion of trained social workers must be increased. A trained social worker is far better able to work in partnership with volunteers than an untrained one. The Government admits that financing training on education grants is cheaper than secondment by local authority social work departments. Yet so rigid are Whitehall's rules, these extra £500,000 for training will, in fact, achieve significantly less than if the same money were channelled through the DES. It is this sort of nonsense which makes the profession despair of Whitehall.

Many newly elected county councils will be looking for ways of getting better value for money in the personal social services. Fewer circulars, better procedures, partnership with voluntary and self-help groups, and a better trained social work profession are positive ways of achieving this.

Yours, etc.,

PATRICK JENKIN,
Shadow Social Services Secretary,
House of Commons.
May 12.

From Lord Aldington, and others

Sir, The signatories of this letter work for organizations which believe that the man or woman who has the best qualifications for the job should get it. It is obvious that Peter Jay's selection for Washington is an excellent and imaginative expression of that principle.

We hope that Mr Jay will not have to put up for long with the kind of criticism which some people have greeted his appointment. And if, as we confidently expect, the choice proves in practice to be justified, we also hope that an incoming Conservative Government will not be tempted to deprive the country of the services of a potentially first rate Ambassador to the United States.

Yours faithfully,

ALDINGTON,
ARNOLD WEINSTOCK,
RICHARD POWELL,
R. H. GRIERSON,
WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,
SARA MORRISON,
1 Stanhope Gate, W1.
May 12.

Nato and disaster relief

From the Bishop of Leicester, and others

Sir, The need for better coordination of transport and communication in disaster relief operations has now made itself so tragically and repeatedly apparent that it seems to us a neglect of social responsibility if Nato, one of the most effective operational groupings in the world, does not give the highest priority to considering how it can make a fraction of its resources available at the request of disaster-hit countries.

The need is not for a tightly-knit force but for an effective co-ordinating mechanism between countries.

It is too much to hope that the British Government will not be the last to encourage Nato on these lines, since there is already considerable support in Nato Headquarters for such planning.

Yours etc.,

RONALD LEICESTER,
MAURICE CHANDLER,
Chairman, International Affairs Committee, Church House,
25 Bedford Square, W1.
A. E. YOUNGER,
Director General, Royal United Services Institute,
House of Lords.

Newspapers in London

From the President of the Royal Academy

Sir, May I add my voice, and that of the Royal Academy, in support of Francis King and his colleagues who wrote to you on May 2 concerning the fate of the *Evening Standard* about which at present there seems such a continuous stream of news. The *Standard* provides the predominant voice in spreading news of all aspects of the arts in London. Its demise would be a disaster to the art world.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH CASSON,
President, Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1.

From Mr Tony Swain

Sir, There was an unfortunate error of fact in Mr L. J. Cadbury's letter (May 10).

The latest published circulation figure of the *Evening News* is 57,420 and that of the *Evening Standard* is 42,917.

We believe that it is important that your readers should be aware of the difference in the circulation of the two newspapers.

Yours faithfully,

TONY SWAIN,
Circulation Director,
Evening News,
Carnegie House, EC4.

Cambridge Society

From Mrs D. M. Lennie

Sir, The Oxford Society is delighted to see in *The Times* today (May 3) that a Cambridge Society has now been launched and would like to wish them luck. They may be encouraged to know that when the Oxford Society was founded, just 45 years ago, there was some uneasiness expressed at asking for subscriptions "in the stringent economic circumstances existing at this time" when, in fact, the life subscription was only two-thirds of what the Cambridge Society is now obliged to set as the current annual subscription. Here's to the next 45 years for both societies.

Yours faithfully,

DAPHNE LENNIE,
Secretary of the Oxford Society,
8 Wellington Square,
Oxford.

Voting for Europe

From Mr John Grieson

Sir, In common with a great many British Europeans, I am less concerned about the method of electing our first elected MEPs than I am about making certain we have an election next year. For this first exercise in direct elections, any method is going to be preferable to none at all—and we will then have the best part of four years within which to decide how best to fall into line with our partners in the EEC.

There is, however, one aspect of the arguments which I find increasingly irritating. Ronald Butt uses it regularly, and Sir David Renton, QC, used it again in a letter to you yesterday. It is that the British people "prefer" the simplicity of

See the Summit

From Mr David Knox, MP for Leek (Conservative)

The Downing Street summit should not be allowed to go on without some notice of the fact that it took place at all. That world economy seen as a whole is a challenge of the future is a truism. In the Declaration and Policy (May 8), we are told that only a collective response but a continuing management; that is something which the United States is not equipped to do; that the summit meeting; and that the summit of the world is under the influence of the seven or very few who should be open to the eyes of our visitors as possible for long as possible.

The obvious solution to the summit problem is to make a size for entry on one day, a

osing of the V and A

From Professor P. N. Campbell

As a complete outsider I do not help feeling that the decision to close the Victoria and Albert Museum on one day each in order to achieve economies imposed by the Government is automatic of a serious defect in methods. I support economic public expenditure but here it is London, a great museum, should surely be open to the eyes of our visitors as possible for long as possible.

The obvious solution to the summit problem is to make a size for entry on one day, a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Next Ambassador to Washington

From Mr Philip Noel-Baker

Sir, I read with surprise this morning (May 12) your headline on page 8 "Mr Jay's appointment shocks the House of Commons", and with even more surprise Mr David Wood's account of the reasons why "Frontbenchers and Backbenchers on both sides were shocked".

The gravest of the reasons is the suggestion that the Prime Minister had lapsed into "Sir Harold Wilson's nepotism and personal appointments". The suggestion seems to me grotesque—it is clearly true that Mr Owen's greatest difficulty in making the appointment was to overcome Mr Callaghan's resistance. Mr Callaghan has always shared the late Lord (Herbert) Morrison's contempt for, and vigorous opposition to, nepotism and all that goes with it.

I find no less strange the suggestion that Mr Peter Jay will do well financially out of the £40,000 a year which as Ambassador he will receive. Those who say it cannot know much of the formidable burden of diplomatic entertaining which Mr Jay and Mrs Jay will have to shoulder in Washington. I think it certain that they will be much less well off than they are here.

As you point out on your front page, there are four postwar appointments to the British Embassy in the USA. But there is also the precedent of the appointment, at a time of grave crisis, of Mr Philip Noel-Baker as Ambassador to Washington.

We are at a time of crisis now—crisis perhaps not less, grave than when Hitler's menace hung heavy on the world. At such a time, Mr Jay's relationship to the Prime Minister is of no great importance. Mr Jay may earn an entirely irrelevant Washington will be a centre of immense importance in the search for a solution of the present crisis. The only thing that matters is finding the best man for the job, and the article about Mr Jay which you print at the top of page 8 seems to me to prove beyond all question that the Foreign Secretary has done that.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP NOEL-BAKER,
16 South Eaton Place, SW1.
May 12.

From Lord Aldington, and others

Sir, The signatories of this letter work for organizations which believe that the man or woman who has the best qualifications for the job should get it. It is obvious that Peter Jay's selection for Washington is an excellent and imaginative expression of that principle.

We hope that Mr Jay will not have to put up for long with the kind of criticism which some people have greeted his appointment. And if, as we confidently expect, the choice proves in practice to be justified, we also hope that an incoming Conservative Government will not be tempted to deprive the country of the services of a potentially first rate Ambassador to the United States.

Yours faithfully,

ALDINGTON,
ARNOLD WEINSTOCK,
RICHARD POWELL,
R. H. GRIERSON,
WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,
SARA MORRISON,
1 Stanhope Gate, W1.
May 12.

Defending human rights

From the Reverend Paul Oestreicher

Sir, Your own balanced commitment to human rights, as evidenced in today's editorial on Bukovsky (May 10), minimizes the danger that Lord Chalfont's indiscriminate mud-slinging (May 9) will be taken too seriously. He is absolutely right to reject double standards but goes on to make quite unfounded allegations.

Who are the "distinguished south-sayers of the left" who deliver sermons about Chile and refuse to criticize communists? Certainly not the Catholic Bishop who represented the Cardinal at the Amnesty service last year. Nor the others involved in that service. The implication that the victims of terror in Cambodia are neither being worked or prayed for is simply not true.

Lord Chalfont is out of date.

Post Office liability

From Mr David Tench

Sir, The Post Office attempts in today's issue of *The Times* (May 5) to defend its unique immunity from legal liability, so vividly described by Bernard Levin in last Tuesday's issue. For the record, the statutory protection currently enjoyed by the Post Office includes the following: "... no proceedings in tort shall lie against the Post Office in respect of any loss or damage suffered by any person by reason of ... anything done ... in relation to anything in the past ... or fault in communication by means of a telecommunication service." No doubt lawyers could argue endlessly about how far this goes, but by any standard of fairness it goes much too far. It is all very well for the Post Office to point out that it is an offence to delay the mail or the telephone service. This is of little comfort to the consumer whose property is damaged through the negligent or even deliberate acts of Post Office workers. He has no redress under the present law.

The recent *Gourley* case, which caused a constitutional crisis, demonstrated that prosecutions for deliberately delaying the post were by no means a certainty.

The main theme of Bernard Levin's piece remains unanswered. It is morally indefensible that a public corporation should remain immune from any form of liability in a case where negligence can be proved, or is even admitted. That is the main issue. The Post Office

appears indifferent to the idea of providing a fair deal for the consumer. Today's Government announcement of the Bill to restructure the Post Office board with two consumer representatives on it, may do more in the long run to change things at the Post Office. We certainly hope so. It may even be effective in changing their attitudes towards consumers and to consumer affairs, and that could prove to be much more significant than changing a mere law, important though that is.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID TENCH,
Legal Officer,
Consumers' Association,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2.
May 5.

Young travellers

From Mr P. A. Cobbett

Sir, British Rail allows university students up to 30 years of age to travel at half fare but requires schoolchildren 14 years old to pay full fare. To deal fully with that position would require the competence of Bernard Levin. May I simply suggest that children of compulsory school age should be treated as children in the railway fare structure?

Yours faithfully,

P. A. COBBETT,
6 The Drive,
Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 4.

Planning paths for cyclists

From Mr L. Warner

Sir, The essential point that Mr John Hunter seems completely to have overlooked in his letter (May 10) about planning for bicycles is that the appalling conditions with which cyclists have so frequently to contend on the roads today—and which give rise to the demand for the use of facilities such as bus lanes—have been brought about entirely by the presence of motor vehicles.

In itself, the pedal cycle is not a dangerous vehicle: it causes little or no offence by way of noise or atmospheric pollution, and certainly cannot be said to threaten the lives and limbs of others on the scale that motor vehicles can—and do.

Yet Mr Hunter complains of what he terms the "privileges" enjoyed by cyclists, ignoring the fact that—even allowing for any appropriate concessions in the comparison—he endures the same motorist's "privileges" alongside what has been done in our towns and countryside to try to satisfy the demands of ever-increasing volumes of motor traffic. And it is little short of ridiculous for him to generalize about cyclists who "appear to" ignore traffic signs and show no road sense.

There are good and bad among all classes of the road-using community: one might just as easily generalize about motorists who ignore traffic signs (and speed limits)—with potentially far more serious results.

Yours faithfully,

L. WARNER,
National Secretary, Cyclists' Touring Club,
Correll House,
69 Meadow,
Godmading, Surrey.
May 11.

From Mr George Hill

Sir, Since the error seems to be getting a hold, and in spite of the likelihood that the new GLC will soon make the question academic, I London, may I insist that cyclists have every right to ride in most bus lanes? Not all local authorities have exactly the same rules, but in general, we are only excluded from those lanes (less than one-third) that run against the main stream of traffic, like the one in Piccadilly. Lanes of this kind are still novel and confusing to some, so I do not think that the exclusion is unreasonable. They are usually short enough to walk along, or else, as in Piccadilly, have another route (Jermyn Street) only a few yards away.

But, legal or not, it would be foolish to ride a bicycle beside an ordinary bus lane with herds of cars and lorries elbowing by on either side, the police yawning at the sight, and nowhere safe to set down one's foot. At least I thought those were cars and lorries on the inside lane. But now I have seen Mr Hunter (May 10) so scandalized by the idea that some cyclists ignore traffic signs, I realize that they must have been buses after all.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE HILL,
13 Leverton Street,
London, NW5.
May 10.

From Mr R. J. R. Tanner

Sir, The astonishing letter from Mr Leeming (May 11) shows the very wide gap between the planners—building "very expensive concrete cycle tracks on both sides of the road"—and the public which apparently did not want them.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER TANNER,
Furnace,
Greenfield,
Nr Oldham,
Lancashire.
May 11.

From Mrs Virginia Pasley

Sir, O planners! Why should a cyclist wish to by-pass Oxford? Yours sincerely,

VIRGINIA PASLEY,
25 Lathbury Road,
Oxford.
May 11.

60,000th issue

From Professor N. Kurti, FRS

Sir, Your excerpts from 60,000 issues of *The Times* (May 11) makes fascinating reading, especially since it brings home to us our present reliance on receiving news often within minutes of the occurrence of an important event. Your paragraph about President Lincoln's assassination reminded me of my dismay when while browsing in the 1865 Minutes of The Hebdomadal Council of The University of Oxford, I noticed that it had taken council nearly three weeks to decide to send a letter of condolences to the American Minister in London. It took me some time to realize that the transatlantic telegraph cable was not laid till 1866 and that council, in fact, acted with commendable dispatch.

Yours faithfully,

N. KURTI,
Department of Engineering Science,
University of Oxford,
Parks Road,
Oxford.
May 11.

From Mrs B. Mahon

Sir, Congratulations and best wishes for your 60,000th number from one whose family has read *The Times* since the first issue.

Yours sincerely,

J. MAHON,
21 Skeena Hill, SW18.
May 10.

From Mr J. Bartley

Sir, Today's issue of *The Times* (May 11) includes reports on the storming of the Bastille, the death of Nelson, the Crimean war, the executions of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, the assassination of President Lincoln and sundry other newsworthy items.

In view of the 25 per cent increase in the price of this paper, imposed only two days earlier, could you not, please, bring your reporting a little more up to date?

Yours faithfully,

J. BARTLEY,
Phoenix Cottage,
Eppingham,
Surrey.
May 11.

Hectic dealing

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Union Miniere

Union Miniere

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Callaghan pledge of go-ahead on Drax B 'with minimum delay'

Maurice Corbin, Financial Editor

Mr Callaghan, has ordered an inquiry into the proposed Drax B power station, a second unit at Drax, Yorkshire, which would be the first of a new generation of power stations to be built in the country.

The Prime Minister told the House of Commons yesterday that the Government would go ahead with the project "with minimum delay".

Behind the scenes, the Government has decided to take a cautious approach to the project, which is a joint venture between Drax and the National Electricity Board (NEB).

Mr Callaghan said: "I do not wish to quantify that but I assure you these discussions are proceeding very rapidly as we go through the necessary stages of approval."

He added: "The Government is determined to go ahead with the project as soon as possible, but it is essential that we have a thorough examination of the project to ensure that it is in the best interests of the country."

The Prime Minister's statement was seen as a strong endorsement of the project, which has been the subject of much controversy in the past.

Drax B is a 1,320 MW power station, which would be the largest in the world when completed. It is located on the Drax estate in Yorkshire, and is expected to be completed by 1985.

The project is a joint venture between Drax and the NEB, and is expected to cost £1,000 million. It is expected to create 1,000 jobs during its construction.

The Prime Minister's statement was seen as a strong endorsement of the project, which has been the subject of much controversy in the past.

business, or see the orders for the project to go ahead, backed by the NEB.

The Government appears ready to pay some compensation to the generating board, though nowhere near the £100 million which Drax has asked for.

It is likely the Government will offer a modest figure and promise to review the situation in the light of experience of the higher costs of advancing the coal-fired power station order two years ahead of schedule, thereby helping both Drax and Babcock and expanding the reserves of the NEB.

Mr Callaghan said: "I do not wish to quantify that but I assure you these discussions are proceeding very rapidly as we go through the necessary stages of approval."

He added: "The Government is determined to go ahead with the project as soon as possible, but it is essential that we have a thorough examination of the project to ensure that it is in the best interests of the country."

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Panel may look at regional variations in petrol price

Geoffrey Browning, Secretary of the House of Commons, is considering a reference to the Prices Commission on regional variations in petrol prices.

Mr Browning said: "The Prices Commission is currently reviewing the issue of regional variations in petrol prices, and it is likely that they will make a recommendation to the Government in the near future."

The Prices Commission is a body set up by the Government to advise on price control issues. It is currently reviewing the issue of regional variations in petrol prices, which has been a long-standing problem.

Mr Browning said: "The Prices Commission is currently reviewing the issue of regional variations in petrol prices, and it is likely that they will make a recommendation to the Government in the near future."

Mr Fraser was replying to an amendment moved by Mrs Margaret Bain, the sole Scottish Nationalist MP on the committee, emphasising the need for a standardisation of prices throughout the United Kingdom.

She said: "The Prices Commission is currently reviewing the issue of regional variations in petrol prices, and it is likely that they will make a recommendation to the Government in the near future."

Mr Fraser said: "The Prices Commission is currently reviewing the issue of regional variations in petrol prices, and it is likely that they will make a recommendation to the Government in the near future."

IMF's revaluation hint to Bonn and Tokyo hits dollar Progress on solving oil wealth problems

From Frank Vogt

Washington, May 12. The seemingly vast balance of payments surplus of the key oil-producing nations "are by no means an insuperable problem for the world economy", according to Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

In a speech delivered in Holland, he said it was vital that the surplus of these countries be directed to the proper channels, with their placement in longer-term investments and their distribution according to the ability of receiving countries to use such resources in productive capital formation.

He was confident that the oil-producing countries were making important progress on this.

New IMF calculations show that the total medium- and long-term investments by surplus oil-producing countries have risen from about 32 per cent of the 1974 cash surplus of about \$67,000m, to 65 per cent of the 1975 surplus of \$35,000m, and to about 73 per cent of the 1976 estimated surplus of \$44,000m.

Dr Witteveen does not deny that the dramatic shift in international payments patterns had added to international economic problems in a major way.

The latest IMF forecasts showed that inflation in 1977 in industrial countries would not be much below the 7 per cent level of 1976, he said. Real gross national product growth in these countries was now expected to be 4.5 per cent, compared with 5.5 per cent last year.

World trade growth this year was expected to be below the 1976 expansion rate of 7 to 8 per cent. But he stressed that on the general economic outlook, just as on the prospects for improved international payments adjustment, there were good grounds for optimism.

Dr Witteveen pointed out that by the second half of 1977 the growth rate in the industrial countries as a group was expected to rise to an annual rate of 5.5 per cent, while there was modest evidence of progress on the inflation front.

There was also increasing evidence to suggest a stronger movement towards a sustained economic recovery. He stressed that "the fight against inflation must be a continuing one, and policies which tend to weaken inflationary expectations risk upsetting the still fragile renewal of private business confidence on which stable economic growth ultimately depends."

Dr Witteveen's comments on the management of the surpluses of the oil-producing countries are based on IMF calculations showing that these surpluses, when adjusted for 1977 price and output levels, are only moderately larger than the current account surpluses of the industrial countries during the 1967-72 period.

His confidence is also based on his belief that the surplus oil-producing countries will continue with a greater portfolio diversification in favour of a longer average maturity of bank deposits, increased shares of longer-term government securities and corporate equities and bonds, as well as higher disbursements of aid flows to less developed countries.

IMF figures show clearly that it is the industrial countries and the wealthier developing countries that have had to bear the brunt of the sharp rise in oil prices in terms of the balance of payments.

The lessons of the recent past, said Dr Witteveen, show that countries such as Britain, Italy and France must ensure more than ever that their external position is adequate to enable them to take full advantage of increases in world trade.

Countries must recognize that recent experience had demonstrated that exchange rate depreciation "must be accompanied by measures

designed to restore price stability if improvement in balance-of-payments performance is to be achieved."

He warned countries with surpluses, such as Germany and Japan, to avoid pushing domestic demand expansion to the point where renewed inflation could result. He suggested that these countries, in addition to ensuring adequate domestic growth rates, should permit increases in their exchange rates and further ensure better payments equilibrium through increased flows of long-term capital and development aid.

He strongly favoured strengthening the Fund's resources, and stressed that such action would not only ensure adequate financing for many deficit countries, but "would provide confidence to other lenders during the necessarily protracted period when balance-of-payments adjustment is taking place."

LONDON: The dollar fell sharply against the Deutsche mark and the yen in hectic trading late today on the European foreign exchange market.

The flurry of activity was prompted by Dr Witteveen's remarks indicating that the Japanese and German currencies should be effectively revalued.

The dollar, which had been around its overnight rate of 2.3717 Deutsche marks, fell to 2.3650 in late trading.

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Dr Johannes Witteveen: confident of progress

Surge in equities goes on

London's stock market had its best day for almost five months yesterday as the institutions and public alike resumed their buying spree.

In scenes reminiscent of the early part of 1975, when the market was recovering from its nadir, investors scrambled to get into the equity market and by the close the FT index stood 470.2, up from 470.2-13.6 at the start of the day but still at its highest level since June 12, 1975.

As a measure of the strength of the recent demand, the index has now gained more than 30 points since it broke through the previous high for the year just seven trading sessions ago.

According to Datastream, yesterday's rise of 13.14m, by value, was the biggest of the year so far and takes the market to £25.1bn.

The 30-share index, which

Blame for Crédit Suisse loss laid at management's door

From Alan McGregor

Geneva, May 12. The director of the Swiss federal banking commission said today that the general management of Crédit Suisse, Zurich, must take the blame for not controlling properly the directives to its Chiasso branch, which has lost at least 250m Swiss francs (\$80m) and possibly considerably more.

In addition, Mr Bernhard Müller, the director, told a Bern news conference that management's warnings to the books maintained at Chiasso had not been sufficiently forceful, although from 1969 onwards it had been concerned with the branch and with the Swiss Finance Association, the Vaduz, Liechtenstein, holding company involved in the investment losses.

He indicated that, as a result of an inquiry some years ago, management was aware that Chiasso had been providing bank clients for investment in the Swiss stock market, which should have been subject to the Swiss withholding tax—35 per cent.

After the inquiry, management had ordered the branch to stop such transactions and to submit to the legal department in Zurich all proposals emanating from the Chiasso lawyers, Maspoli and Nosedo, who were in contact with Mr Ernst Kuhnreiter, the Chiasso manager.

Mr Müller said that although Mr Kuhnreiter had given a

written assurance that he would provide accurate figures, the management had sent further instructions in 1970 when complaints from competitors indicated that Chiasso was continuing the practice. But the bank had not complied and had continued to provide guarantees that were not backed.

The total of such guarantees not reported to the Zurich headquarters had reached one billion Swiss francs (\$233.6m). The loss was managed by Mr Kuhnreiter, with some of the books maintained at Chiasso. It should have been under federal banking law and authorized by the commission and subject to its control. The branch managers had in effect been running an unofficial parallel banking operation, he added.

The commission—official watchdogs of Swiss banking—says in its annual report that while no basic changes are called for in the surveillance system the machinery needs to be strengthened.

Mr Müller said the Chiasso affair showed that the Credit Suisse internal controls were weak. It was inadmissible that operations involving such large sums should have continued for such a period outside the control of headquarters.

He revealed that when the commission had become aware of the extent of the Chiasso affair it had called a meeting in Bern of heads of auditing firms to ascertain what addi-

tional details they could provide.

The control body had not only to verify the accounts and the annual balance, he added, but also see how an organization was functioning and should make sure that management was above reproach.

Peter Norman writes from Bern.

Herr Oswald Aepli, chairman of Credit Suisse, has renounced his candidature for the board of Ciba-Geigy, the Swiss chemical group.

Announcing this in Basle today, Ciba-Geigy said: "Herr Aepli had asked the company to withdraw his nomination for the time being." In view of the sharp decline in money supply in the early months of this year, the authorities appear to take the view that the retention of formal controls, while they may not be needed for the

Bank extends 'corset' controls for 6 months

By John Whitmore

The Bank of England has decided to continue for a further six months the "corset" controls over the banking system the "corset" being the way in which the Bank deters excessive growth in certain types of banking deposits that constitute important elements in the money supply.

The Bank's decision to extend the controls, on the same basis as they have been operating since last autumn, comes as no great surprise.

Although there have been suggestions that the "corset" could be dropped in view of the sharp decline in money supply in the early months of this year, the authorities appear to take the view that the retention of formal controls, while they may not be needed for the

moment, is important for an economy that has still to show that it can comply with the strict monetary ceilings imposed on it for the next couple of years.

The basis for the continuation of the controls, officially known as the supplementary special deposit scheme, will be that the present ceiling on the growth in a bank's interest-bearing liabilities essentially its interest-bearing sterling deposits will be allowed to grow by one half per cent per month over the rest of this year.

The base ceiling for calculating the permitted growth remains the average level of a bank's IBEs in the banking months of last August, September and October.

Financial Editor, page 23

Port Talbot strike blow to UK steel output

By Edward Townsend

The dispute at the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot works in Wales last month had a major impact on the country's steel output figures for April. At a weekly average of 377,600 tonnes a week, they were the lowest since December and 18 per cent down on a year earlier.

Continued poor demand for a wide variety of steel products, particularly from the shipbuilding and engineering industries whose consumption of steel plates and billet-derived products has fallen badly, again affected output in the Northern, Yorkshire and Humberside regions.

The figures, jointly issued today by the BSC and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, show that United Kingdom steel output

in the first quarter dipped 5.5 per cent compared with the same period of 1976.

Overall steel stocks held by consumers and merchants are estimated to have fallen by 5 per cent in the first quarter to an equivalent of 16 weeks supply—the lowest level since the energy crisis of late 1973, when 12-14 weeks' supply was considered normal.

Steelmakers believe that the current destocking has continued in recent months, giving cause for hope that real consumption of steel may be on the upturn.

According to figures issued yesterday by the Department of Industry, steel consumption in the first quarter, seasonally adjusted, was just under four million tonnes, and has been stable for the past year.

Burton writes off £4.7m and will shut 57 shops

By Christopher Wilkins

Closure and reorganization costs aimed at restoring Burton Group's menwear operations to profitability are now calculated at £4.7m.

Burton has written this amount off in its first half 1977 profits, as a result of which the group yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £4.56m. An extraordinary loss of £325,000, arising from the repayment of Swiss bank loans, the net loss was £4.9m.

The "programme of action" announced by Burton contains four main points. The most important, involving the already announced closure of two manufacturing plants in Leeds and Warrington, is estimated to cost £2.3m including redundancy payments. Overall, the group is aiming to shed 1,400 workers.

Burton is also planning a big stock reduction programme which has involved the creation of a film exceptional stock reserve. Big summer sales are scheduled to cut stocks.

At the same time Burton is embarking on a general cost reduction programme which requires reorganization provisions of a further £1m.

Finally, Burton is to close 57 shops, which it describes as uneconomic. This will result in the closure of 1,400 jobs and provisions of £400,000. Burton said yesterday that the programme was being "developed in discussion with unions and employees by a strengthened management team."

During the first half Burton made an operating profit of £1.9m on sales of £77.8m, largely because of a strong performance by Top Shop and a turnaround to profit by Peter Robinson and Ryman, but the group also had to face interest payments of £2.4m. Last year Burton made a pre-tax profit of 1m in the first half.

Despite the loss this year the board said it had confidence in the medium-term recovery of the group and had decided to pay a "nominal" interim dividend of 0.6p a share.

Ronald Kershaw writes: Redundancy notices affecting the 1,400 factory workers are to be withheld until May 23. This decision was made by union officials yesterday after a meeting with the company's top executives.

£15m sale of Arab stake in Costain

By Our Financial Staff

An Arab-owned and much-traded stake of 20 per cent in Richard Costain, the civil engineering and building group, has been placed with a number of institutions. The stake is worth £15m.

Morgan Grenfell merchant bankers, who yesterday said it had arranged the placing of the 7.63 million shares previously owned by Mr Al-Fayed and the investors he represents at 197p per share. Brokers to be placing were Hoare, Govett.

Timed to take place 48 hours after Costain unveiled a 54 per cent rise in 1976 profits, the placing "went very smoothly" and within the hour some 75 buyers had been found.

The deal represents an effective profit of over £4m for Mr Al-Fayed and his associates and brings to an end a long series of changes in the ownership of the 20 per cent stake.

Mr Al-Fayed, who is to remain on the Costain board with a nominal 1,200 share holding, acquired the stake from Slater, Walker Securities—Mr Jim Slater had a seat on the board until 1974—which in turn had purchased the holding from Hanson Trust.

In March 1975 Mr Al-Fayed sold the holding to Lorch in a mostly paper deal worth around £7.5m. He joined the Lorch and Costain boards and bought the non-beneficial stake back in February last year for £1m in cash.

Mr Al-Fayed has been connected with Costain for more than ten years and Mr J. R. Wells, finance director, explained yesterday that he "will continue to be associated with us in the Middle East."

Mr Wells stated that the group had always had an arrangement that Mr Al-Fayed would consult the board before any shares sale.

He also made it clear that the placing comes as a relief to Costain. The group has fewer fears of an unwanted bid "now that the 20 per cent foothold is no longer being kicked around."

It means, he added, "that there is no longer a significant holding in the group and that a bid must stand on its own merits and cannot be launched from a 20 per cent base."

Costain shares climbed 4p yesterday to 206p.

Lloyds and Scottish Group Interim Results

	Six Months Ended 31/3/77	31/3/76	Year ended 30/9/76
	Unaudited		
Profit before Taxation	£'000	£'000	£'000
Taxation	7,628	6,618	14,483
Profit after Taxation	4,091	3,489	7,617
Minorities	3,537	3,129	6,566
	144	125	220
Profits attributable to Lloyds and Scottish Limited	3,393	3,004	6,446
Earnings per 20p share	3.34p	2.95p	6.55p
Dividends per 20p share	1.54p	1.40p	3.5337p

Comments on Results

Demand for instalment credit and leasing finance was at a higher level than during the previous six months. The benefit of this higher volume was largely offset by the steep rise in interest rates. The recent sharp reduction will, however, in due course be reflected in improved margins on existing fixed rate business. The fluctuations in interest rates have, of course, little effect on that part of our lending which is tied to variable base rates.

Our industrial and commercial activities have experienced increased volume and profitability and will also benefit from the fall in the cost of money.

An interim dividend has been declared of 1.54p per share payable on 2nd August 1977 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 2nd July 1977.

G. DUNCAN, Chairman.

Lloyds and Scottish Limited, Vigo House, 115 Regent Street, London, W1A 3DD. Telephone: 01-734 7040



Lloyds and Scottish Limited

UNION MINIERE

Registered Office: Rue de la Chapellerie, 1-1000 Brussels. Trade Register No. 15377 Brussels - VAT No. 402936129.

Replacement of Company Quota Tenths

from the 6th June and after payment of Coupon No. 40, the coupon attached to the Company Quota Tenth, Type 1977, is the body of these quotas will be replaced, with sequence in numbering and without limitation of duration, by new Company Quota Tenths, Type 1977, Coupons 70 attached.

holders, in order to meet the request of many shareholders, shareholders will be enabled, for one single period from 6th June 1977 to the 31st December 1977, inclusive, to change the bodies of the Type 1955 Company Quota Tenths against whole Company Quotas, Type 1958, Coupons 70 attached, at the rate of one whole Company Quota for ten tenths.

holders whose shares are held without security and wish to avail themselves of this option, must advise depository body thereof.

se exchanges will take place without a charge, at the following banks:

Belgium
La Société Générale de Banque, rue Montagne au Parc 3, Bruxelles, as well as its other various branches and offices.
La Belgoise, Cantiersteijn 1, Bruxelles.

the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
La Banque Générale du Luxembourg, rue Aldringen 14, Luxembourg.

France
La Banque Belge (France), 12 rue Volney, 75002 Paris.
La Société Générale, 29 Boulevard Haussmann, 75009 Paris.

the Netherlands
L'Amsterdamsche Bank, Herengracht 595, 1001 Amsterdam.

holders with registered shares

holders registered for their Tenths of Company Quotas be advised individually of the provisions to be adopted, in view to the replacement of the registration certificate in the Register of Registered Shares.

The Board of Directors

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Amal Power 13p to 104p	Mount Lyall 7p to 26p
Ass For Cement 6p to 198p	Wood Hall Ltd 4p to 78p
Beecham 18p to 49p	
Berry Wiggins 4p to 44p	
Boots 12p to 174p	
Brilliant FMS 12p to 174p	
Donlop 7p to 19p	
GKN 15p to 35p	
Glaxo 17p to 515p	
Hawker Sidd 12p to 68p	
Imperial Ind 12p to 40p	
Lipton Ltd 12p to 58p	
Equities had their best day for five months.	
Gilt-edged securities were in demand.	
Dollar premium 120.25 per cent (effective rate 46.172 per cent).	
Sterling fell 7p to £1.7191. The "effective devaluation" rate was	

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The Times index: 189.74 + 4.46

The FT index: 470.2 + 13.6

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia S	1.51	1.56
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	64.50	61.50
Canada S	1.19	1.24
Denmark Kr	16.62	16.22
Finland Mk	7.25	7.00
France Fr	5.76	5.44
Germany Dm	4.25	4.15
Greece Dr	64.25	61.25
Hongkong S	8.35	7.90
Italy Lr	1545.00	1490.00
Japan Yn	505.00	480.00
Netherlands Gld	4.42	4.30
Norway Kr	9.35	9.00
Portugal Esc	67.75	64.00
S Africa Rd	2.04	1.90
Spain Pes	121.75	115.50
Sweden Kr	7.77	7.42
Switzerland Fr	4.52	4.30
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	33.75	31.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as issued in the United Kingdom and other foreign currency business.

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Tanners to pursue legal battle with NEB

By Derek Harris

Sixteen leading tanners who last month failed to get a court injunction to stop the National Enterprise Board from completing a £3m support deal for the tanning interests of Barrow Highbury Group (BHG), announced yesterday that legal action was to be continued against the NEB.

The tanners group had already begun legal action against the NEB, alleging a breach of its statutory duties, before an interim injunction to restrain the NEB from completing the deal.

There has been speculation since the injunction failed that the tanners group might give up its original legal action. One new factor has been that Mr Justice Talbot, when he heard the injunction application in chambers, gave leave for BHG to be joined to the action. So was British Tanners' Producers, the company in which the NEB has bought half the equity.

Talks among the members of the tanners group, whose chairman is Mr Fred Lang, vice-chairman of Scottish Tanning Industries, have continued over the past 10 days.

Yesterday the group reiterated its view that some of the terms of the joint NEB-BHG venture were "uncommercial and preferential".

The statement added: "These terms could lead to unfair trading, undermining the rest of the tanning industry, and therefore cannot go unchallenged."

Opec hint of single oil price structure

From Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
May 12
Shaikh Abdul Aziz, the Opec chairman, said here today it would be preferable to revert to a single price structure for oil.

He was thus holding out the prospect of another surprise decision on oil prices when the ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Stockholm in July.

Detailed consultations and soundings are being taken among the oil-producing countries in preparation for the Stockholm meeting. Most significantly, Shaikh Abdul Aziz stressed the importance of the recent visit to the Gulf area.

2pc increase in applications for patents last year

By Kenneth Owen

A slight increase during 1976 in the number of patent applications, and a slight decrease in the number of complete specifications filed, are disclosed in the annual report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs, which was published yesterday.

Applications rose by 2.2 per cent to 54,561, while specifications filed decreased by 1.8 per cent to 40,806. The backlog of patent specifications awaiting examination fell by about 4,000.

It was a "fairly quiet year" in respect of major new departures, the report says. Protein chemistry provided one rapidly developing area of interest.

"Patents, Designs and Trade Marks 1976" (94th report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks. HMSO £1.1)

by President Carlos Perez of Venezuela. Without revealing details, the shaikh spoke tantalizingly of the "surprise" decision which he believes will emerge from the July meeting.

Given his apparent preference for a single-price structure to supersede the present two-tier arrangement, he indicated that the surprise element might well lie in the length of time which the producers will stipulate that any new agreement should last.

This could be an integral part of the deal to be announced, he said. "Certainly there is a need for the position to be clarified."

Japanese claim real cut of 12-15pc in ship charges

From Peter Hill

Oslo, May 12
Japan's shipbuilders claimed today that the gap between their price levels and those of European yards have narrowed considerably in the past two months. Earlier this year Japanese government agencies ordered yards to raise ship export prices by 5 per cent in response to growing European opposition to alleged Japanese price-cutting.

Officials of the Japan ship exporters' association noted at a press conference here today, however, that the 5 per cent rise coupled with the effective revaluation of the yen had in fact led to a real increase in ship export prices of between 12 and 15 per cent.

As part of the same anti-recession package proffered to Europe, the Japanese government is refusing export licences to rships destined for certain European countries whose domestic industries are severely hit by the world recession. In the first four months of this year Japanese yards obtained contracts for 92 ships totalling 1,528,000 gross tons.

Mr Masashi Isano, president of the association, said Japan believed it was its duty to build high quality ships at reasonable prices whenever there was demand from owners.

On the question of increased government subsidies in Europe, he emphasized that these should be regarded only as temporary. Meanwhile, executives of British Shipbuilders arrived back here today after talks in London with a group of powerful Hongkong shipowners. There is optimism that discussions which are expected to continue in the next few months will lead to orders being placed with United Kingdom yards.

He seemed confident that a compromise would be reached, and in a comment reflecting his chairmanship of Opec, added that while a single price structure was to be preferred "there was nothing wrong with a two-tier system".

Its introduction had been used by some, he suggested, as a way of predicting the imminent collapse of Opec, yet it was really no different in concept to the existing multi-price system operated by the oil companies in Europe and America.

On another important topic, Shaikh Abdul Aziz said, plans were now advanced for unifying Gulf currencies, though Saudi Arabia would not participate.

The five currencies involved in this unification, which should take place by next March, are the Qatar dinar, the Bahraini dinar, the Qatar dinar, the Emirati dirham and the Omani rial.

This is seen as a preliminary step towards establishment of a Gulf market with similar trading ideals to those of the European Community. Final details for the unification, which will result in the creation either of a Gulf rival or Gulf dirham, are being worked out by monetary agencies of the countries.

A Qatar is entering the Euro-currency market, where it is presently negotiating a \$500m (£300m) loan.

Shippers plan ferry services at £5m Ulster dock

As concerted moves between British Rail, Townsend Thoresen, the harbour management and the security forces, succeeded in reopening Ulster's strike-bound seaport at Larne yesterday, it was revealed that two shipping companies—presently unnamed—are negotiating to establish roll-on-roll-off ferry services from the new £5m harbour at Warrenpoint, Co Down.

Mr Albert McGuffin, acting general manager of the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, which has been unaffected by the Loyalist disruption of the past 10 days, said that the two companies had recently resumed negotiations.

Improvements at Belfast harbour are included in the latest round of BEC regional development fund grants to Northern Ireland, totalling nearly £3m.

In brief

from 8.8 per cent to 6 per cent, according to Washington sources. The increase for bars was trimmed from 6.8 to 6 per cent. The company thus fell into line with the leading producer, United States Steel. This percentage was also approved by National Steel, the number three company, and looked like being applied generally.

£28m STC cable link
A £28m contract for a high-capacity undersea cable system to link Singapore with Luzon, Philippines (some 1,500 nautical miles), has been awarded to Standard Telephones & Cables, the London-based ITT subsidiary. Extended credit is being provided through National Westminster Bank.

US price rise trimmed
President Carter's Government won a round in the prices war yesterday when Republic Steel cut the announced cost increase of its rolled products

Finnish strike ends
An eight-week strike of about 50,000 Finnish technical workers has ended after a compromise two-year package agreement on pay and working hours, Helsinki sources said yesterday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Worker/capitalist' cooperatives

From Mr R. W. N. Cattell

Sir, Now that the Bullock Report has, understandably, been more or less squashed by the CBI we should think again about how the contribution made by employees to industry can be more fully recognised.

Surely the contributions made by capital on the one hand and labour on the other can be simply quantified: capital for the regeneration and expansion of industry is usually derived from the three sources, the issue of shares, loans back of profits. A substantial part of fixed assets paid for out of the latter two are the result of the efforts of the workforce, and recognition of this fact should be given to each employee, in proportion to the wages he earns, in the form of shares in his company at the end of each year's trading.

Among the advantages of such a system would be:

1. The challenge of competition, essential for the health of industry except perhaps in wartime, would be widely experienced amongst the population, instead of being felt by only a few as it is in a wholly capitalist or wholly socialist system.

2. The unions, who would presumably be the natural choice to represent at board level the voting rights of their members' shares, would share the responsibility for choosing the correct balance of profit-taking and reinvestment to the best advantage of their members and the company as a whole, instead of trying to extract as much from the employer as possible in the form of wages.

3. Some people living on "unearned income" would be encouraged to become workers to increase their shareholdings, and the unemployed would have a positive incentive to seek out job opportunities more stren-

uously in order not to be left out. What is needed now in this country is neither laissez-faire capitalism nor full state ownership nor even workers' cooperatives, but worker and capitalist cooperatives. Surely the loss of industry and the waste of resources after decades of fruitless argument, owe it to us to attempt, together, work out a basis for mutual cooperation and subsequently make their world.

Then perhaps we can end the boring and irritating debate on the supposed inequalities in our society by background and perhaps participate instead in the pleasure of helping less fortunate peoples overseas, against whose problems most of our own are so insignificant. Yours faithfully, R. W. N. CATTELL, 5 Kings Mansions, Lawrence Street, London, SW3, May 11.

America's role questioned

From Mr F. Courtney

Sir, It seems that Peter Jay (May 5) is living in a different world from the rest of us poor mortals. He sees the United States as a knight in shining armour, having defeated the powers of evil, settling down in the post-war years to play "willing sucker" to its economic partners.

He goes on to say that without an overvalued dollar, massive direct capital investment and later a sustained American balance of payments deficit, western Europe and Japan could never have achieved the export led economic miracles of the fifties and sixties.

This is not all—wait for it—when the United States is then further subjected to "economically illiterate insults" for exporting inflation and multinational companies, it was hardly to be wondered at, that by the autumn of 1971, the then United States secretary, Mr John Connally, should somewhat rudely have declared the party is over.

Well, Peter Jay, if there is any economic illiteracy, it is unfortunately at your end. I say unfortunately, because you have the power of the reputation of *The Times* behind you and you are influencing countless readers, whereas I am a solitary voice crying in the wilderness, but I hope I represent that section of the general public who can still think for themselves.

It was a quite deliberate policy at Bretton Woods, when the United States insisted that the price of gold should be pegged "for good" at \$35 per fine ounce. It was an equally deliberate policy that chronic surplus countries would not be subject to penalties, whereas chronic deficit countries would. This has meant that we have

been deprived of an equivalent of just over 50 per cent in value of the total gold production of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State since the end of the Boer War, which would have been available to us between 1945 and the present day, had gold been allowed to rise in value with the growth of GNP.

Furthermore, the United States has not been in deficit on current account in the whole of the post-war period. It is nonsense to count capital investment abroad as equivalent to bringing a country into deficit. That way America has achieved ownership of assets in the western world on an unprecedented scale, whilst preventing us from using our gold reserves underground in a similar manner.

It is equally wrong to suggest that there is some moral good reason why the price of gold should be frozen and gold be demonetized, because the whole growth and development of the United States industrial complex has been paid for with that very gold, which was extracted from California in the late forties of the last century, as soon as Mexico was forced to cede that territory to the United States.

The United Kingdom has earned this gold by honest work in providing the capital the United States required. The fact that we afterwards captured our own mountain of gold in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State does not alter the position at all.

So please, Peter Jay, in future let's have a little bit less of this nonsense and let's have a few more letters, like that of Lord Balcuth's today, which lets in a bit of fresh air for constructive thought. Yours, F. COURTNEY, 96 Sandown Court, Southport, May 5.

Estimating coal reserves

From Mr C. E. Iliffe

Sir, In your issue of May 4, the correspondent Mr R. B. Dunn of the National Coal Board quoted a figure of 45 billion tons of coal reserves that is "economically recoverable" and that these are a "proportion" of the total physically workable coal deposits. It would then seem to follow that the reserves of physically workable coal must be more than 45 billion tons, so that they exceed the board's 1974 estimate by even more than the factor of three quoted in your letter to you of April 25.

Furthermore, when comparing figures for physically workable coal, the changes in the price relationship between coal and oil raised by your correspondent must surely be irrelevant. Previous conclusion on the life error attaching to figures of coal reserves would thus appear to be still valid.

I do not know why Mr Dunn should associate my name with British Nuclear Fuels, as I indicated no such association in my letter. In fact, I am a retired chartered engineer. Yours faithfully, C. E. ILIFFE, 52 Stray Road, Wilslow, Cheshire SK9 4AQ.

When the rebate is 'recovered'

From Mr Charles Hall

Sir, The Post Office rebate of £7 for telephone users will not benefit those who use the service least. With the same apply when Sir William Ryland decides to recover the rebate. Yours faithfully, CHARLES HALL, The Bear Essential, River Wall, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2AH.

Shopfloor advice 'can aid exports'

By R. W. Shakespeare

A strong plea for the full involvement of shopfloor representatives in planning and executing a major new export effort by British industry was made by Mr Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers Union, yesterday.

Mr Jones, who was speaking at a conference in Liverpool organized by the British Overseas Trade Board, of which he is a member, said North Sea oil was not a long-term solution to Britain's balance of payments deficit. It would provide only a breathing space and the time must be used to overcome more basic weaknesses.

The real problem could be summed up in Britain's failure to export sufficient goods to pay its way.

"This is not a job for one section of society alone but for all of us, acting in unison", he

said. "Trade unionists can play a major part in any export drive if they are given the opportunity to be fully involved in the process."

"No one knows better than the workers concerned how to solve the day-to-day difficulties that can mean success or failure for an export drive. The shop stewards and the men on the factory floor will often anticipate a problem before it happens."

Mr Jones said British export orders had on occasion failed because of avoidable delays but by involving union representatives from the start in planning the export effort it was more likely that these problems could be foreseen and solved.

"To be involved and fully appreciate what is going on is halfway to the solution of any problem", he said. "The reorganization of production

timetables to meet export deadlines is much more successful when the workers have helped to plan the new procedures."

In many cases shop stewards and union officials had already formed part of export teams accompanying management on sales efforts abroad—with much success.

Sir Frederick Catherwood, the board chairman, who chaired the conference attended by more than 200 management and shopfloor delegates from Merseyside industry, said that contrary to opinions expressed in some quarters, higher investment in modern plant and manufacturing techniques would not lead to increased unemployment.

The experience of many overseas countries had shown this. Japanese industry, for instance, was "mortgaged up to the hilt"

£1m steel mill opening

A new British cold-rolling steel mill, the second of its kind in the world, will be opened today by the Ductile Steels group at Willenhall, Staffordshire.

It will replace two existing mills and still boost output of narrow strip by 50 per cent without adding to the labour force.

So impressive is the £1m mill designed and manufactured by Sir James Farmer Norton, of Manchester, that the first was bought by a German steel company despite that country's zealously guarded reputation as Europe's leading rolling mill producer.

President Carter's Government won a round in the prices war yesterday when Republic Steel cut the announced cost increase of its rolled products



"Shell is investing £1 million a day in the North Sea"

The Annual General Meeting of The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited, British parent of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, was held in London yesterday. The Chairman, Mr C.C. Pocock, made the following points:

Let no one talk of unwillingness to risk or unwillingness to invest.

- Shell is putting over £1 million a day into the hostile waters of the North Sea and by the end of 1980 will have spent about £2,500 million on British offshore oil and gas.
- On land too, Shell has been spending between £75 million and £100 million a year on developing its British refining, marketing and chemical activities.

North Sea oil gives Britain a little more time to shape its future energy policies. It must not be used as an excuse to put off decisions. President Carter has dramatized the energy problem the world will face if appropriate action is not taken soon. It cannot be said often enough that it takes at least 10 years to develop alternative energy sources.

Shell is doing a lot to encourage the involvement of employees in decisions which affect their working lives. This process has been going on—with us and other companies—for many years. Yet it finds little recognition in the Bullock Report. Of course change should and must come. But it will come by working together and not by a huge legislated leap into the dark.

Business in Britain accounts for only some 10% of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group total. Shell companies are world-wide and have exceptional flexibility throughout their operations. World development needs both trade and the exchange of knowledge across frontiers. There is no machinery better equipped to provide these than groups of companies like ours.

Shell companies are in business long-term and they accept the responsibilities this entails. We know that to survive we have to be acceptable not only to shareholders, but also to employees, to customers, to suppliers, to governments, to trade unions. We have to understand the changing forces that press upon us and be sensitive in our reactions to them. But our first duty is to be efficient and profitable. Without this, none of the rest would happen.

For the full text of Mr. Pocock's statement apply to:

The Secretary,
The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited,
Shell Centre, London, SE1 7NA

Crane Fruehauf



Strong recovery continues

The Twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Company was held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2 on Thursday, 12th May 1977. The following salient points are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. Angus Murray.

- Turnover for the year amounted to £47.7 million, an increase of over 40 per cent on the previous year.
- Exports accounted for £10.25 million, compared with £7.8 million in 1975.
- Pre-tax profit £1.51 million, which was in excess of the forecast of not less than £1.4 million given to shareholders in the Company's letter of 4th November 1976, in connection with the bid from the Fruehauf Corporation of America.
- The recommended total dividend of 21.5 per cent compares with 8.8679 per cent paid in respect

of the previous year. In the opinion of the U.K. Directors the dividend recommended is fully justified by earnings and adequately provided for by prospective cash flow.

- The current year has begun well and the level of order intake in all parts of the Company is healthier than it has been for over two years.
- Shareholders are reminded of the stated intention of the Fruehauf Corporation of America to make a further bid for the Ordinary shares of the Company which it does not already own and in these circumstances it is regretted that no further forecast of the results for 1977 can be made at present. Sufficient to say, however, that the U.K. Directors, as they have already informed shareholders, expect profits for the current year to be substantially in excess of those for 1976.



Crane Fruehauf Limited,
Hayes Gate House, Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Tel: 01-848 0225 Telex: 262054

Copies of the full Report are available from the Company Secretary.



Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

INTERIM REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1977

Financial Results

The consolidated unaudited results of T.C.L. and its subsidiaries for the six months ended 31st March, 1977 together with the results for the same period last year and the results for the year ended 30th September, 1976 are as follows:

	Notes	Half-year ended 31st March 1977 (R000's)	Half-year ended 31st March 1976 (R000's)	Year ended 30th September 1976 (R000's)
Turnover	1	57 693	29 173	73 794
Consolidated profit before taxation	2	26 051	10 339	26 969
Taxation		10 267	3 656	10 213
Normal Deferred		1 205	1 961	2 817
Consolidated profit after taxation		15 784	6 683	16 756
Less: Profit attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies		3 393	880	3 370
Interest of members of T.C.L.		12 391	5 803	13 386
Shares in issue		7 304 838	7 304 838	7 304 838
Earnings per share		169.6c	79.5c	183.2c
Dividends per share		30.0c	23.0c	75.0c

1. Turnover is the revenue derived from the coal, chrome and timber sales of subsidiary companies. Of the increase in turnover of R28 million for the six months, compared to the same period of the previous year, R22 million is accounted for by the increase in the revenue from exports, mainly coal exports, which started in April 1976. Some decline in the level of coal exports is expected during the second half of the current financial year and may result in a lower turnover than that achieved during the period covered by this report.

2. The consolidated profit after taxation includes investment realisation amounting to R600 000 equivalent to 0.8 cents per share (six months ended 31st March, 1976: R56 000=0.8 cents per share; year ended 30th September, 1977: R212 000=2.9 cents per share).

Interim Dividend

An interim dividend of 30 cents per share has been declared in terms of the Dividend Notice published herewith.

Profit and Dividend Prospects

The consolidated profit after taxation is significantly higher than that for the corresponding period last year, because of the increased volume of coal and chrome sales. However, as indicated in note 1, coal sales have now reached their present planned level and no further increase in profit can be expected from this source in the second half of the year. The increased interim dividend has been declared with the aim of reducing the disparity between interim and final dividends. For the reasons stated above, and having regard to the very heavy capital expenditure programme, the final dividend for the year to be declared in October 1977 may not show an increase. In this event the total dividend distribution for the year could be 82 cents per share (1976: 75 cents).

Assets and Listed Investments

At 30th September, 1976 it was estimated that the current value of mining and forestry assets, excluding mineral rights, exceeded net book value by R18 million. The directors are of the opinion that at 31st March, 1977 there has been no material change in that excess.

Market values of the group's listed investments are as follows:

	At 31st March 1977 (R000's)	At 30th September 1976 (R000's)
Market value of listed investments	48 418	44 873
Market value of T.C.L.'s holdings in listed subsidiaries, not included in above	79 321	31 284
Proposed Capital Expenditure and Commitments		
Capital expenditure during the half year amounted to R19 million. During the second six months a further R36 million is expected to be outaid.		
Proposed capital expenditure over a period of approximately five years totals R174 million including commitments contracted for R54 million. This expenditure is stated in current values and is to be met from earnings and finance arranged.		

For and on behalf of the Board
A. C. Petersen (Chairman) Directors
R. S. Lawrence

Dividend No. 75

Dividend No. 75 of 30 cents per share has been declared in South African currency as an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 30th September, 1977 payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27th May, 1977 and to persons presenting coupon No. 76 detached from bearer share warrants. The dividend on bearer share warrants will be paid in terms of a notice to be published later by the company's secretaries in London.

The rate of exchange at which the dividend will be converted into United Kingdom currency for payment of the dividend from the office of the company's secretaries in London will be the telegraphic transfer rate of exchange between Johannesburg and London ruling on the first business day after 27th May, 1977 on which foreign currency dealings are transacted.

The register of members will be closed from 28th May to 5th June, 1977, inclusive, and dividend warrants will be posted on or about 5th July, 1977. Where applicable non-resident shareholders' tax of 15% will be deducted from this dividend.

The full conditions of payment of this dividend may be inspected at or obtained from the Johannesburg or the London offices of the company.

By order of the Board,
RAND MINES, LIMITED,
Secretaries,

per M. B. Dunderdale,
United Kingdom Registrars and Transfer Agents:

Charter Consolidated Limited,
P.O. Box 102,
Charter House, Park Street,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

Registered Office:
15th Floor,
63, Fox Street,
Johannesburg 2001,
(P.O. Box 62370, Marshalltown 2107)
12th May, 1977

BROWN BOVERI KENT

9 months profit well up on previous 12

TURNOVER	£47.1 million
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£3.0 million
NET PROFIT	£2.0 million
NET DIVIDEND	1.2p per share

- Turnover rose by 14%—orders by slightly more—compared with the same nine months of 1976.
- Nearly 70% of total sales are to customers outside the U.K.
- Profit before tax rose to 6.4% of sales, compared with 4.5% in the previous twelve months.
- The net dividend has been increased from 1.0p to the equivalent of 1.6p per share in a full year.

Brown Boveri Kent Limited (54.5% owned by BBC Brown Boveri of Switzerland), is the parent company of George Kent Limited, the international group in industrial instruments, process control and liquid metering.

Copies of the report and accounts covering the 9 months period to 31 December 1976 are available from the Secretary, Biscuit Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1AL.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Best day for five months on trade hopes

The absence of a large rights issue from Shell and the belief that the Government's BP share placing will not, after all, come this week got equities off to a flying start from which they barely faltered.

Inspired by a number of background influences, institutions and public alike fell over themselves to buy in scenes reminiscent of the early part of 1975 when the market was showing up from its low of 140. By the close the FT index was up another 13.6 to 470.2, its best day for almost five months and higher than at any time since June 12, 1973.

Though a shortage of stock accounted many rises, a strong influence in the proceedings was widespread talk of today's trade figures being in surplus even without invisible earnings. The top end of the market was particularly buoyant.

Mr Jeffrey Sterling's chairmanship of the London Celebration Committee for the Queen's Silver Jubilee is attracting more credit than his efforts at Town & City Properties which faded to 9p yesterday when all around in the sector powered ahead. Could the long-awaited capital reconstruction by City & County be a catalyst for speculative holders will be chary of locking themselves in.

range of estimates was an optimistic £30m.

News that North Sea oil is flowing even faster than expected and reported strong buying from the Continent also played a part in what was an impressive session.

Though there is an undoubted change of emphasis away from the gilt market they, too, had a strong session even though market signals that M.L.R. is unlikely to be reduced clipped many prices back from their top levels. Most trade was in medium and long dates where closing gains were up to three-quarters after earlier rises of a full point.

According to Datastream, the market capitalisation rose £1.314m to a total figure of £55,153m, the biggest gain of the year so far.

House of Fraser, up 6p to 125p, were in demand on rumours that Mr "Tory" Rowland was in America trying to purchase the 21 per cent stake held by United States group, Carter Hawley Hale, but firm details were forthcoming from Carter, and Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the group. He said he was ignorant of any impending deal, but informed sources were convinced that this was not a time to take profits and were holding on to the stake they had bought.

Leading industrial shares to score double-figure gains were ICI 17p to 402p, Glaxo 17p to 515p, Becton Dickinson 16p to 489p, Rank 14p to 210p and Unilever, 10p to 482p. An upsurge in the disappointing figures and the lack of exemption from dividend restraint.

In the engineering sector both Hawker Siddeley at 668p and GKN at 352p put on 12p, while a crop of figures on the pitch saw Staveland up 11p to 246p. Elsewhere in Business News, dividends are shown net of tax on price per share. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Forecast.

150p and Amalgamated Power firm by 14p to 104p, the last-named after a rights issue of £2.3m and doubled profits.

Continued speculative support of bid hopes had L. Lipton 14p to the good at 50p, Laurence Scott up 4p to 136p in the hope that further news will not be long delayed and Storey Brothers where the advance was 5p to 120p. But Hunting Gibson reacted 5p to 300p and J. Bibby 4p to 135p, the latter after the chairman had denied rumours at the annual meeting.

Cosalt lost 4p to 61p after news that Department of Trade Inspectors had been appointed at a subsidiary while Stanley

moment of the Government Gibbons closed 53p ahead at 122p after a rights issue, which was accompanied by a dividend forecast.

In spite of the placing of an Arab stake with a large number of institutions, Costain managed a 4p gain to 208p, while in stores Burton A ended a point firmer at 71p in spite of a dividend cut and loss. In the afternoon both Dunlop 7p to 119p and Lucas 11p to 285p were strong spots, with Tecalit, up 8p to 118p, continuing to be speculatively favoured.

In oils, BP, relieved for the sale, rose 10p to 954p. The Field speculation, put Oil Es-

ploration another 20p up at 162p and two other North Sea stocks to meet with strong demand were Thomson Organisations, better by 15p to 600p, and IC Gas, which jumped 14p to 400p. T. & O, another with North Sea interests, gained 9p to 159p.

But the feature here was Shell's first-quarter figures, which may net income rising

F. H. Lloyd shares have been snapped up recently with a line of 200,000 going this week without problems. It seems that a potential bidder is building up a stake, but with Lloyd's share of the steel casting market any offer could run into Monopolies problems. The shares were a firm 99p.

from £26m to £416m, well above expectations.

After a meeting with a number of institutions to allay their fears on the possibility of a High Street price war, Tesco gained 2p to 42p. Profits, due soon, would be a better disappointment, according to reports of the meeting.

Equity turnover on May 11 was £210.45m (24/61 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, B.A.T., D.F. Shell, Becton, BP, Rank, GKN, Lucas, GEC, Barclays, Amalgamated Power, Samuel Properties, Burnham, Coates Parsons, Unilever, ICI, Lipton, Stanley Gibbons, Oil Exploration, Storey Brothers, Republic Parsons, AB Electronics and Tecalit.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord. div.	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev. year
Alroy & Smithers (25p) Int 5	2.50	3/30	6/7	8.65	8.20
Amalgamated Power (25p) Int 5	2.50	3/30	6/7	8.65	8.20
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Yarrow notches 71pc sales rise in 1st half

By Tony May

Excluding its shipbuilding companies, which are being nationalised on July 1, Yarrow has raised its sales for the six months to December 31 by 71 per cent to £2.2m. Pre-tax profits are 8.2 per cent up at £344,000 including £60,000 against £340,000 from the sales of investments, and a dividend from the shipbuilding company of £50,000.

On net profits raised from £707,000 to £749,000, the board raising the dividend from 2.16p to 2.31p.

Mr Eric Yarrow, the chairman, says that the compensation to be paid for nationalisation will be the subject of early negotiations with the Department of Industry, and will probably have to go to arbitration. As yet he has no accurate estimate of the final amount.

Meanwhile the shipbuilding companies show a fall in pre-tax profits from £2m to £1.2m for the half year. Turnover rose from £15.4m to £16.6m, but net profits fell from £40.1m to £38.7m. The second half saw profits fall 29 per cent to £33.5m before tax.

Business appointments

New chairman named by Ford of Europe

Mr Harold Poling, president of Ford of Europe, has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of the company announced yesterday. He succeeds Mr John McDougall, who has been named vice president of Ford in the United States. Mr Robert Lutz, vice-president, truck operations, for Ford of Europe, has become president.

Mr Colin Duff and page 23 Smith have joined the board of TFS Rubber, a subsidiary of the Charles Colston Group.

Mr Leslie Stubbs has been made vice-chairman of the Charles Colston Building Society, in succession to Mr Bill Lawton, who has retired.

Mr A. D. Ward and Mr M. J. Whithead have become directors of Vesta.

Mr Derek Norton has become chief executive of the London subsidiary, Dundee & Elliott, chairman of both Dundee & Elliott and Brown Bayley Steels. Mr Norton is also chairman and chief executive of the subsidiary, Firststep Holdings.

Mr Denis Ward, the Dundee & Elliott group financial director, has been made managing director of both Dundee & Elliott and Brown Bayley Steels. Mr Peter Edwards and Mr Neil Macdonald have resigned all their directorships and other appointments in the companies within the Dundee & Elliott group.

Mr Victor Watson, managing director of John Waddington, is to become chairman and chief executive on the retirement in August of Mr R. Eversard Chadwick, who recently resigned as a director of Magnet and Southern and Robert Glen. Mr G. D. Lavers is to be non-executive deputy chairman of Waddington.

Mr W. A. B. Brown has been made a non-executive director. Mr T. E. Smith also resigns from the board in August. Mr P. Rumble is to be managing director of the packaging and printing group, and Mr J. Scott Macdonald director of the publishing group.

Sir Martin Wilkinson has been elected chairman of City of London Brewery and Investment Trust. Mr R. J. Dent joins the board.

Sir Halford Reddish has become a non-executive director of Warburg Investment Management.

Dr R. Hawley, Mr A. D. Nicol and Mr G. B. Tully have joined the board of Reynolds Personnel International.

Mr Ernest Starnes, previously managing director of Thom Benham is now chairman. Mr Henry M. previously deputy managing director, becomes chief executive and managing director.

Mr N. McCann becomes joint managing director and general manager of Alfred Crompton & Co. Mr S. C. Tutton joins the board as joint managing director and marketing director.

Mr R. C. Rickmore is now chairman of Nickels, with Mr L. C. Bradman previously finance director, becoming managing director. Mr H. Bonstead remains a director and general manager.

Wood Hall forecast of £4.5m

By Our Financial Staff

Although retaining better first-half figures, the board of Wood Hall Trust is downgrading its estimate for the full 13 months to £4.5m.

On turnover up from £118.35m to £204.55m for the six months to December 31, pre-tax profits rose from £1.71m to £2.08m. The board explains that the rise in pre-tax profit is lower than expected mainly because of the poor results of Wood Hall, Australia.

On the assumption that no profit or loss accrues or is incurred in respect of the Wood Hall pipeline contract, the current estimate made by the members indicates that group profit for the full year, before tax and minorities, should be in the order of £4.5m, compared with £3.65m for 1975-76.

In his annual report last year, the chairman, Mr Michael Richards, gave a qualified forecast of better profits for the current year than in 1975-76. A gross dividend of 7.33p is forecast for the year, the maximum increased allowed over last year's 6.66p.

Operating profits of Wood Hall, Australia, divided to £487,000, compared with £412,500 for Woodhall's share of the estimated final loss incurred during the period October 1976, to completion last month, on a contract, undertaken jointly with another contractor, for the construction of a gas pipeline from Wollert and Albany.

Save in limited areas, the expected improvement in conditions in the United Kingdom has not occurred and the United Kingdom subsidiaries are only forecast to show profits for the year comparable to those for 1976, which were £2.48m.

The overseas office has met mixed conditions in the Far East and the African countries where it operates and no appreciable rise in its profits from those countries is expected compared with last year's £1.83m.

In Australia, Wood Hall's results are 'dependent to a major extent on the year-end position of the claims under the Gasplus-Sydney contract and no forecast can be made.

Both Leyland and R-R prime Dutton upsurge

By Ray Maughan

Dutton-Forsyth Group, the Leyland, Rolls-Royce and construction equipment distributor, has weathered the effects of the prolonged toolmakers' strike at Longbridge in seemingly fine style.

After four months of the current year, the group is selling Leyland products at an annual rate of 35,000 vehicles, a rise of 5,000 on 1976 levels. Some 60 per cent of Leyland distribution is accounted for by retail sales, which split evenly between new and used vehicles. Sales of Leyland parts are very "considerably up this year," says Mr Ronald Hockin, chairman.

The group has apparently been able to withstand the supply crisis by positive early stocking, but the current reorganisation of Leyland franchises is also helping. Because "we've been loyal to Leyland through thick and thin," the chairman explains, "we're now making a lot of gains."

Shareholders, who include Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation, with a 20.4 per cent stake, get a total gross dividend of 3.6p against 2.7p per share under the Treasury's recovery rules—where the shares yield just over 10 per cent after a 3p rise to 35p.

The Rolls-Royce dealership, the largest in the world, is also pulling its weight—half the Rolls ever registered are still on the road—which gives the used-vehicle market a great deal of mileage, and with a better contribution from the British & Canadian Investments agricultural and construction equipment distributors, the group has enjoyed a record year.

Sales accelerated by a quarter to £115.6m, the contribution from the International Harvester and the Dantz construction and agricultural machines gained 12 per cent after management charges to £534,000 pre-tax. Debt servicing on the British & Canadian acquisition cost 91 per cent less at £314,000.

Overdrafts were cut by 24 per cent to £55.2m at the year end by the negotiation of a £3m term loan.

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The shares climbed 19p to 214p yesterday in a strong overall market. But the positive growth outlook appears to outweigh recent speculative support. —Thomas Bonwick and Dalgaty have been favourites to make a bid.

The historic p/e is only 5.1, a deferred tax is included from the overall liability.

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LEADERS OF THE TIMES

From the recently published Market & Opinion Research International survey of the reading habits of today's MPs and Senior Civil Servants, one irrefutable fact emerges.

More of them read *The Times* than any other daily newspaper.

Which means, quite simply, that *The Times* reaches more leaders, more decision-makers, more men of prominence, influence and power, than any other daily newspaper.

Something you should know about if you or your company needs to communicate with opinion leaders.

Readership of Members of Parliament

<i>The Times</i>	85
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	52
<i>Guardian</i>	50
<i>Financial Times</i>	37
<i>Sunday Times</i>	30
<i>Observer</i>	25
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	20

Readership of Senior Civil Servants

<i>The Times</i>	82
<i>Financial Times</i>	48
<i>Guardian</i>	25
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	21
<i>Sunday Times</i>	14
<i>Observer</i>	11
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	10

For a free copy of the survey details, please write to: David Laird, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Tel: 01-837 1234.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Rights issues by Amal Power and Stanley Gibbons to raise £3m

Victor Felstead, managing director of Amal Power, is asking shareholders to ask for fresh funds for expansion in two firms in the power industry. The companies concerned are Amal Power Engineering, which makes steam turbines, diesel engines, air compressors, etc. and Stanley Gibbons, which makes banknotes, coins and maps.

These two issues are assured of a warm welcome from shareholders. Gibbons' rights issue is not to be underwritten because of the substantial discount from the current price. AP's issue is being underwritten by Hill Samuel, but it should be fully taken up in view of the group's performance last year.

AP's 1976 turnover expanded from £39,370,000 to £46,320,000, while pre-tax profits more than doubled to a peak of £3,380,000, against £1,580,000, after also doubling in the first six months. AP has now turned the corner after three years of falling profits.

Ir Joseph more share sales

Maxwell Joseph has turned up, no doubt unglamously, as a seller of shares in hotels, leisure, beer and group Grand Metropolitan. He has sold 150,000 shares.

Busy Holt Lloyd tops £2m as margins rise

Group turnover went up 31 per cent to £22.3m, of which overseas and export sales accounted for £6.8m—a jump of 50 per cent. Group margins are up from 8.5p to 9.5p. Earnings a share are 10.7p against 7.08p, while the dividend is 7.7p. As a new company, Holt Lloyd is free of dividend restraint and will remain so for the present financial year. This year's payment reflects the board's two-covered dividend policy.

In Britain, higher productivity, reduced costs and an increase in unit sales pushed profits and sales along, after allowing for inflation. Things also went well in Europe and Australia, where the group is a market leader.

Serck well on target at half-way

On sales up from £33.4m to £38.1m, Serck has pushed its pre-tax profits up from £3m to £4.4m, and this has been reflected in the rise to 7.08p, while the dividend is 7.7p. As a new company, Holt Lloyd is free of dividend restraint and will remain so for the present financial year. This year's payment reflects the board's two-covered dividend policy.

Matt Hall easily tops its forecast

Matthew Hall, the mechanical services and process plant group, easily outstripped its own forecasts with a pre-tax profit of £4.62m for 1976.

Hunting Assoc more than fulfils hopes

By Ashley Druker. Back in October, Hunting Associated Industries, the aviation support, engineering and technical services group, looked to record profits of about £3.5m for 1976. Mr Clive Hunting, chairman, and his directors expected the opening six months' £1.65m, against £1.08m, to be repeated. In the event the final six months' £1.65m, against £1.08m, to be repeated. In the event the final six months' £1.65m, against £1.08m, to be repeated.

Leyland cheer for Appleyard

Full production at Leyland is good news for the Appleyard Group which, as well as Leyland cars, also deals in Rolls-Royce. At yesterday's annual meeting, the chairman, Mr Ian Appleyard, told shareholders that, although the group's April sales were affected by shortages, Leyland is now back in full production and Appleyard's stocks of most of the popular models of Leyland cars are "adequate".

No stopping NSS

Still going strongly, NSS Newsagents made further progress in the half to April 3. Turnover rose 19.4 per cent to £22.33m while pre-tax profits climbed 37.3 per cent to £1.6m. This was mainly the result of the elimination of unprofitable sales, expansion, with a net increase of 16 branches, plus extensions and improvements to existing branches. Indications are that the first-half's results will be maintained in the second. The interim payment, gross, is being raised from 0.52p to 1.07p.

King & Shaxson

Following a satisfactory profits at the half-way stage, London discount house King & Shaxson reports a big upswing for the full term. In the year to April 30, profit, after rebate, tax and transfer to contingencies, was £621,000 to £972,000. The total gross payment is being raised from an adjusted 4.24p to 4.67p.

BASF fears on low sales trend

Ludwigshafen, May 12.—The operating profits of BASF AG, the West German chemical manufacturer, are expected to fall in April and May sales and income order trends continue throughout the year. Hans Matthias Seefelder, chairman, states.

BASF said that the higher 1976 pre-tax profit trend continued only hesitantly in the first quarter of this year. The 3.3 per cent increase over the corresponding quarter did not match expectations. BASF's volume sales were on target during the first quarter of this year, but the company fell short of its price goal.

Sales in the first quarter rose to DM5,200m (about £1,238m) compared with DM5,200m. His cautious view of 1977 is somewhat conditioned by the failure so far of Rhine-Ruhr chemical workers to accept an offer of 7 per cent wage rises compared with the 9.5 per cent being sought.

Fokker passes dividend. The holding company of Fokker, the German-Dutch aircraft and aerospace manufacturer, is not proposing a 1976 dividend. It paid out FL1.80 in 1975. The VFW-Fokker MBH group made a 1976 after-tax dividend of DM5m (about £1m).

Sulzer gloom. Sulzer AG, the Swiss mechanical engineering group, expects first few months of this year expected to confirm this expectation. Last year group turnover was 19,100m Swiss francs (about £4,224m) against 18,300m Swiss francs a year ago. Consolidated net profit advanced by 9 per cent to 872m Swiss francs.

Rothschild bonds plan. Net earnings of the Banque Rothschild rose slightly last year to 20.93m francs (about £2.4m) from 20.7m francs. The net dividend is up from 15 to 16 francs for 1976. Most of the profits were recorded in the first-half, before the new credit curbs. Meantime, the bank plans to improve the handling of funds, etc. by bringing debentures on the domestic market of between 150-200m francs.

W R Grace optimistic. W. R. Grace & Company, the American chemical and fertilizer group, expects that 1977 "will continue the trend of record and near-record years for the company". Mr Felix Larkin, chairman, told the annual meeting. The higher level of economic activity is expected, "and indeed being experienced", coupled with the rising demand specifically for chemical products, gave confidence for the future.

Lex predicts £4.75m for half-year. Reporting a successful conclusion to the recent rights issue, the board of Lex Service Group predicts higher profits for the first half of the current year. As yesterday's annual meeting, Mr Trevor Chinn, chairman, told shareholders that the board believed pre-tax profits for the first six months of 1977 would be "not less than £4.75m" compared with £3.3m for 1976. Lex's rights issue of 10.42m ordinary shares has been taken up for 9.8m shares—94 per cent.

OLIVETTI WANTS \$40m. Syndicate led by Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) has arranged a \$40m seven year note issue for Olivetti International SA. Coupon tentatively 9.25 per cent, on an offer on May 26. Bondholders' option to redeem on June 1, 1982 at par. Company managers Banca Commerciale Italiana, Kredietbank SA Luxembourg, Geolise.

Wall Street. New York, May 12.—Prices headed sharply and broadly lower on the New York Stock Exchange this morning in moderately active early trading amid growing speculation that the banks will raise the prime lending rate in the near future.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 1.10 points to 925.80 sharply before 11 a.m. New York, May 11.—Stocks closed sharply lower on the New York Stock Exchange.

Silver down by 4c. SILVER futures, traded in commodity houses, fell sharply on the New York market today, down 4c to 38c, after a rise of 1c to 39c on the London market.

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The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 1.10 points to 925.80 sharply before 11 a.m. New York, May 11.—Stocks closed sharply lower on the New York Stock Exchange.

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Annual Report and Accounts: extracts from the statement of Mr Alastair Down, chairman and chief executive.



1976 Results. The results for 1976 show a loss before taxation but after charging interest of £7.99 million, compared with £13.59 million in 1975 and with £14.86 million for the first six months of the year. While seasonal factors, exchange rates and other fluctuations make direct comparison difficult, the improvement in the second half is encouraging.

Although the recovery programme is now well under way, shipping losses continue to dominate the cash flow situation and it remains essential to conserve cash resources. The board therefore regret that they are unable to recommend an ordinary dividend for 1976.

Asset disposals. Funds arising from the realisation of assets improved the company's liquidity position and made it possible to reduce substantially the dollar borrowings guaranteed by the Bank of England.

These various realisations complete the main asset disposals envisaged in the board's strategy.

The recovery strategy. The underlying strategy of the recovery programme was that Burmah should remain an oil-based industrial enterprise. In this respect, one of the principal activities of the group in the foreseeable future will be the marine transportation of petroleum products based upon the new-generation LNG carriers.

Tankers. Suitable opportunities were taken by Burmah Oil Tankers Limited in the course of 1976 further to reduce the size of its conventional tanker fleet, and thus to reduce current exposure to losses. Tankers will continue to re-structure its fleet as opportunity permits.

The BP holding. Understandably, a matter of the greatest concern to our stockholders remains that of the substantial holding of BP stock which Burmah transferred to the Bank of England in January 1975. Legal proceedings

were commenced against the Bank of England last October. It is not possible as yet to estimate reliably when the hearing will commence, but the proceedings are being vigorously pursued. I can assure stockholders that if there were to be a settlement, the final terms would be referred for their approval in general meeting.

The future. It has been a great help over these last two difficult years that the group's efficient manufacturing and marketing companies have maintained high levels of performance even though markets everywhere continue to feel the effects of worldwide trade depression.

The difficulties that remain to be resolved, particularly on the tanker side, can now be much more accurately quantified and will be increasingly contained as the group's situation improves. The board believes therefore that a sound basis for the company's continuing recovery has been established.

The year at a glance	1976 £ millions	1975 £ millions
Turnover net of duties	845.1	914.8
Profit on trading excluding tankers	45.7	85.2
Loss on tankers	(37.1)	(30.6)
Profit on trading	8.7	54.7
Net operating (loss)/profit	(5.6)	10.5
Net interest charge	9.3	33.2
Loss before taxation	(14.9)	(13.6)
Loss before extraordinary items	(9.3)	(23.0)
Extraordinary items	33.1	12.6
Profit/(loss) after extraordinary items	23.9	(10.4)

To: The Secretary, The Burmah Oil Company Limited, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wilts SN3 1RE. Please send me a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts 1976.

The Burmah Oil Company Limited

Properties under £25,000



Ilbridge Hall Bures, Suffolk

ultimates in privacy for the
of a house is on
island. For those who
rid that as a little extreme,
the house is a masterpiece
out. Crossing a bridge to
the front door, even if
not a desideratum, at least
it is a convenience, and
al, and it does not matter
much if the privacy is
sured by small recesses, and
are behind walls and
doors, those who are sensitive
at this point, an interesting
property is Southbridge Hall, at
St. Suffolk, on Elizabethan
style, with a grade two
listing. It stands on a hill
behind the Stour, and a divided
the river forms the most
attractive property. The
is a single bank, and the
river, and a small jetty,
ere are four main recep-
tation rooms and six bedrooms,
and a small bathroom and
suke. Gardens and
nds run to about seven
acres, and there is a well-
moat. The main house is
out an formal style with
walks and an old walled
garden. Of the 1500
000 are being asked
high Hampton and Soud-
eather bank a moat is
not a drawback. The
debate, those who want
e point might take a
at Losenham Manor, at
nches, Kent, which is
a fine example of a
riddle, also known as
n Ertz, the novelist. It is
a large, six century brick
house, with a tower, and
ected on the site of an
a moated dwelling. Only
the tower and service, ex-
ing along one side of the
party and party, across
the river, are three
ere, one known as the Adam
1, with a fine ornamental
garden and a carved, pine fire-
place. The house is a four-
ground room staff. Gardens
around run to about
acres, with three well-
laid lawns, and a pond
lock and other land. Out-
ings, which might pro-
vide a coach house and a
east house and barn.
is also a four-room
ers of about 255,000 are
asked; the agents are
on Watson and Co., of
London, and Messrs.
and Co. of Hawthorn-

Moat gives a feeling of privacy

"Water, but in a more contemporary way, is also a feature of The Mill House at Wandsworth, Sussex," a grade two sixteenth-century building. A half-timbered construction, with plastered walls, it has a dark, pitched roof. Chimneys are unusually tall, presumably to draw up smoke from a fireplace which includes some good beams, ceilings, and nearly all the windows are leaded. It has four reception rooms and four bedrooms. A millstream runs through the garden, with meadow and woodland beyond.

Offers of about £70,000 are being asked for the house, with 11 acres of gardens and grounds; but further details must be available if purchased. The agents are Knight Frank and Rutley.

Another grade two building with an unusual historical background being sold through the same agents is The Old Rectory at Rye, East Sussex, Ross-on-Wye. It is thought to date from the sixteenth century, with later additions, and was used as a prison, and stored and modernized, and with a timber frame and a slate roof.

The old prison function seems to have been that of a prison, and it remained so until the eighteenth century, when paper mills were built nearby, re-converted, and modernized, and three reception rooms and six bedrooms—most dozes in a row—were added, making the total price to rise to some two acres. The price is about £40,000.

Cot. Elizabethan houses are common on the north bank of the Vale of Colne, North Wales. Only rarely, but one of them, called "The Rectory," near Ruthin, Burg. is thought to date from 1568, it was renovated in 1630 and extensively replaced in the nineteenth century.

It is built mainly of stone, castellated and with stepped gables—and stone-mullioned windows—so inside there are

floors and studded doors. There are two main reception rooms, a study, a main living room suite and four further bedrooms. In addition, there is a self-contained flat.

Gardens and grounds, which include a belt of woodland and a paddock, run to just under two acres and are valued at £50,000. Access through Jackson's Steps and Staff, of Chester.

A different kind of building is the 17th-century house at Norton, near Chichester, a 17th-century Sussex farmhouse which was given a complete renovation. It has two main reception rooms, a playroom, four bedrooms and a dressing room. A large garage and a self-contained two-room flat above, with its own kitchen and bathroom. One interesting outbuilding is a 19th-century hay barn standing on staddle stones.

About six acres of grounds include a paddock and a stream. The property is for sale at £57,000 through Whiteheads, of Chichester, and John D. Wood, of 40 Colindale Ave, London NW9.

A good deal of house for its price of about £25,000 a figure that reflects the urban area, is the 19th-century property, provided by Bridle House, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Close to the town centre, it has a large frontage. The house has cash windows and a pedimented front door.

The entrance hall has moulded plasterwork and a Georgian staircase. There are two main reception rooms, a study, a breakfast room and a kitchen. The garden is a well-kept garden. The agents are Stuart and Parker, of Grantham.

At a mid-range figure of about £25,000 provides a good deal of potential in the case of Gages House, a 16th-century house in Salisbury, Wiltshire. It is a fine Jacobean farmhouse, but because it has been unoccupied for some years, it requires considerable renovation. The four reception rooms include a 'panished' drawing room and there are six bed rooms.

Grounds run to just under three acres and include woodland and a paddock.

Charles Hawkins and Sons, of Bury St Edmunds. Further land and extensive outbuildings are available if required.

Gerald Ed

[illegible]

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hall, 4 bedrooms, lounge, dining
room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms;
garage, carport and double
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The Bank of Tokyo Limited are
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 ment to announce that the
 bonds due 1st June, 1971,
 detached from enhanced bonds
 be sold on and after 1st June,

There should be presented for
 redemption at the Bank of Tokyo,
 Limited, 100, Tottenham Lane,
 EC2R 6DH, listed on the
 L.O.A.N. Board, on 10th June,
 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. They must
 be accompanied by the coupon
 attached prior to payment.
 Interest will be paid by the
 Bank of Tokyo, Limited, as
 an Authorized Depositary, paid
 through the Bank of Japan, Incorporated
 through the Bank of Tokyo Limited,
 Director and General Manager,
 100, Tottenham Lane, London Office.

MAY, 1971.

COMPANY NO

UNILEVER

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 CAPITAL ISSUED BY N.V.
 ADMINISTRATIE - EN T**

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contributing surveys to pay
is still its main role, although
on consumer issues for other s
and broad. The work is carried
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preferably in a market or soci
skills of customer writing
schedules, ability to work unde
is essential and a good degree
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4. DEBENTURE STOCK
in preparation for the payment
of the 4th interest due in
1977, on the above stocks
and bonds, will be
issued at 5.30 p.m. on 2nd June
and will be completed on 2nd July.

R. H. PAUL,
Deputy Secretary.

Director Public
General
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851,

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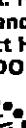
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applicant will be
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including carat-
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educational books.

qualifications and

Ltd.,
Road,

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MAJOR SALE
3rd floor apt flat in purpose-built building, 3 bedrooms, lounge, 10ft. x 11ft. 6in. with French doors and balcony, fully fitted kitchen with cooker and sink, 10ft. x 11ft. 6in. with tiled w.c./to. & tiled bathroom with shower, kitchenette and boiler, 10ft. x 11ft. 6in. & C.I.W. included in service charge, 24 hours. Parting facilities, 2 suns. from tube, close to all amenities.
£15,950
034 3331-51
229 2033 a/c.

PUTNEY
Near River and Shops
Spacious, elegant, modernised
lounge, 10ft. x 11ft. 6in. 3 big bedrooms, large, attractive living room, 10ft. x 11ft. 6in. fitted kitchen. Gas C.I.W. sunny garden.
£24,500 FREEHOLD
Tel.: Owners.
Written on Thames 25572

FULHAM

Modernised family house. 4 large bedrooms, bathroom, woodburning stove, kitchen, breakfast room, central hall, large living room, terrace, gas C.H. Garage space.

Only £29,000 o.n.o. as sale fee included.

Tel: 588 5220

WRITER'S HOME. Spacious maisonette on 2 floors, in Hampstead, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms. For sale or maximum 1-2 years rent. Euro working. Ring for details. 01-753 7607. Answer service available.

W.9. - AM inclusive. Lux. houses - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 103 sq. ft. £37.50 p.w.m. (G.S.) - 609 6099
Tel. 516 (S.E.1) - 608 7035

**London
Flats**

**CHEYNE WALK,
CHELSEA**

Riverside house with famous view. 2 1/2 beds, 2 baths, dining room, study, morning kitchen. C.H. ready gas.

\$50,000 freehold or p/c for small flat in good area.

370 2267 or 351 0110, view London.

BEACON HILL N7

A quiet traffic-free road, a pair of double fronted period houses with pleasant gardens from the rear. Sanctus, characterful, s.p. floors to suit large family, for multiple occupation. £27,500 n.o. e.s., central heating, separate water. Details: 01-607 4232.

SUN SHEDS—Spacious Edwardian sunny house, plus new sun room, study, bedrooms, now with the usual garden. 2 years term. 2 1/2 bathrooms, also w.c. & tiled bath. Callers welcome.

to obtain payment of the dividends must be listed on List Form 1—

Midland Bank Limited, New
Mariner House, Peppys Street,
London, E.C. 3
BTI ZEE Bank Limited, 2 V
Dublin 2
Allied Irish Banks Limited,
Dublin 2
Clydesdale Bank Limited, 1
Glasgow.

The form includes an undertaking on release and these need to be signed.

UTCH CERTIFICATES OF

BY 20

15%. This represents
at the rate of 15%
by withdrawal. No U.K.
monthly payments to non-
resident Inland Revenue
U.K.

Resident sub-share certi-
ficate Forms obtainable
from the Issue Department,
London, EC3N 4DA.
Writing to: London, Belfast,
3/4 Foster Place,
St. Vincent Place,
to mark the certi-
ficate to be lodged with the
L.1,000. FL.100 AND

PERSONAL TAX SENIOR
\$25,000+ . N.W.3.

CJA's
trained, should have 2-5
years of experience in phone
or C.R.A.'s, and be a team
player. Send resume to:

Tel: 01-493 6378
Personnel Services

LEGAL NOTICES

DESIGN & ENGRAVING COMPANY
Limited, (a Voluntary
Liquidator) and the Companies
Commissioners

It is hereby given that the
debts of the above named
company are required on or before
the date of 10th April 1977.
If the creditors of the above
named company do not submit
proofs of their Debts or Claims
undisputed, to the Liquidator,
F.C.A., of 76, New
Broad Street, London, E.C.4,
on or before the date of 10th
April 1977, they shall be
deemed to have accepted the
proposed arrangement and
shall not be entitled to
any dividend or payment
in respect of their claims
against the company.

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ty inspectors: Essential.
Here and hat of garden.
6 1737.

**Overseas
Property**

PHONE BATH 21917

DORSET VILLAGE Exchange
furnished cottage, 3 recep.
beds, bath, garage, lawn,
garden and garden, available.
£28,500. Middletonville 378.

A SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND DOMAIN
Sale by Private Treaty The Fiji Island of

KANACEA

3 miles long by 2 miles wide (about 6 square
miles or 2,000 acres). Freehold.

Price US \$6,000,000 Cash.

Probables in future also available.

3 starry Victorian House, in very good order. Excellent location, close to the End and City, 6 rooms, including 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 w.c's, small neat garden, fully equipped, new flat, to include some fitted carpets, curtains and fittings. — £24,750. Freehold.

Phone 01-274 8543 (even). for appointment to view.

THATCHED COTTAGE
SUPTLOO/ESSEX BORDER—
NR CLARE

Secluded, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, dining room, sitting room, with kitchen, fireplace, beamed ceilings throughout, garden, 1 acre and some fishing grounds, now completely secluded. £17,500.

Ring: 01-229 1704

ISLEWORTH
Ground floor self-contained

EXCLUSIVE KNOTHSBTR

In an area in gr

24hr. porter service, 2 double
or ensuite with master bedroom
walled patio and garden, Private
luxury carpets, curmalus and
2-door modern fridge and free
stove, washer and drier, dish
stereo throughout. Complete
system with special fitted
facilities available. Long lease

ONLY OFFERS EXCEED

'Phone. 25

W2 FREEHOLD

Sunray and floor flat in quiet

COGE LUXURY FLAT
at demand
bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.
m, and one w.c. Lovely
to include wall-to-wall
papers throughout. Large
refrigerator, modern 2-door oven
complete hi-fi
Bosch burglar alarm
safety windows. Parking
for sale.
£180,000 INVITED
6215

Coupon No. 36. Coupons payable to the paying agents in the Netherlands, **De Nederlandsche Bank Limited**: in the Netherlands listed on the special form, otherwise on the special declaration of the paying agent, if it belongs to the Netherlands, otherwise on the special claim-form from Dutch dividend tax authorities, if it is not possible to transfer to Dutch dividend tax authorities. Dutch exemption form. Dutch dividend is fl. 1.29 at 25%, and the proceeds from the encashment of the coupons are transferred by the paying agent in the Netherlands to a convertible florins account with the **De Nederlandsche Bank**.

A statement of the procedure for the Dutch dividend tax and for the coupons, including names of paying agents in foreign countries, can be obtained on request from the paying agent limited at the above address.

Transfer Office.

N.H. NEDERLANDSCH BANK

<p>be effected through either lands or through other cases they must be made from the Bank of the certificates of payment. Instructions are given for the U.K. residents only 15% must submit the tax on this £1.0774 at 15%. The £1 coupons through a will be credited to a bank or broker in</p>	<p>LIQUID such specie do not included are at 1971 B</p> <p>COUN</p> <p>No. El to the the of a 1972 the the and dated B.</p> <p>INTER and Th</p>
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any person who intends
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justice must state the names
of the persons, or if
the name and address of
any person, or if by
of third, or his or her
agent, and must state
if correct, must be in a
sufficient time to reach
the hands of the court
the afternoon of the
of June 1977

**JAPANESE MEETING
NOTICES**

YAMASKA JAPANESE ASS
SOCIETY
3400 SHEDDEN AVE. N.W.
CALGARY
S6E 1H6
SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING
SOCIETY will be held on
date of June 24, 1977
at the Conference Center of the
SOCIETY
Banker Service Corp. in
intended to take place in the

W. R. Carpenter & Co. (London) Ltd.
22 Park Street, Croydon, CR9 3NP
Tel: 91-586 4177

2 bedrooms, living room,
kitchen and bathroom.
£10,750.
Tel. Owner: 01-892 0256

units, own roof, terraces and balconies. No ground rent or rising service charges. Low outgoings. £35,000.
Ring 01-229-1704.

BETTER & BETTER Mortgages, Refinancings, Carlisle Hiltman & Co., Ltd., 178 Temple Chambers, Temple Ave., EG4 01-265 3407. BEST MORTGAGE LOANS, no commission 01-207 0337 Clarion.

London Transfer Office, Unilever
London, EC4P
11 May, 1977

House, Blackfriars,
BQ

will be held at Hanover
mited, 6, Hanover Street,
WIR 4HH, on Tuesday,
day of May, 1977, at
clock, in the forenoon, for
ices mentioned in Sections
25 of the said Act.
NETH PARFITT,
Director.

The letter to the Board
 was dated May 27, 1977, at 1:00 p.m.
 and sent under the address
 F. Sjöström, Åström & Sjöström
 AB, 105 22 Stockholm,
 Sweden, in May, 1977,
 to the Board.

